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AND

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ARRIVALS OF MAIIS.

The American mail of the 23rd July arrived, per P. M. steamer *Gaelic*, on the 15th August (23 days); and the French mail of the 19th July arrived, per M. M. steamer *Natal*, on the 20th August (32 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

It is reported that the Chinese officials have refused to allow the Consuls to be present at the trial of the prisoners charged in connection with the Kucheng massacre.

There will shortly be no lack of steamers on the coast of China, as in addition to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's five new boats we learn that Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. have two steamers on the way out from England and six more in the hands of the builders.

A telegram has been received at the Japan Foreign Office from Mr. Takahira, Minister at Rome, to the effect that the ratifications of the new Treaty of Commerce between the two countries were exchanged between the plenipotentiaries of the respective powers on the 4th inst. at Rome.

Reuter's Agency is informed that the Franco-Chinese Treaty only agrees to certain rectifications of the frontiers at Chieng-Hung and not to the cession of the whole of that state east of the Mekong. The portion, however, conceded is so considerable that it is expected the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1894 will be annulled.

The Queen's Speech trusts that the peace between China and Japan will be an enduring one; deeply regrets the atrocious outrages on Missionaries in the Province of Fuhkein, and hopes that the active measures which are being taken to bring the murderers and all responsible for them to punishment will prove effective.

Everything remains quiet in South Formosa and perfect order is preserved by Liu. The Japanese army, however, is reported to be approaching from the North and early fighting is anticipated.

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—It is not known what influences have moved him, but it is known that Colonel Denby, the U.S. Minister to Peking, has withdrawn from the Chengtu Commission as formerly constituted by himself and the British Minister.

The Spanish Ambassador to Japan telegraphs to his Government that a protocol has been concluded between China and Japan in which the limit of Formosa is recognised as the centre of the Basheo Channel without pretensions to the islands to the south and south-east.

The *Kokkai* states that a new cholera hospital is in course of construction at Hiroto, Azabu, Tokyo, and that it will be placed under the charge of Dr. Kitazato, who proposes to treat patients according to a new method upon which he has been experimenting since the outbreak of the present epidemic. No particulars of the treatment are given, but it seems to be on the same principle as that elaborated by Dr. Kitazato in concert with his master, Dr. Koch, in the case of phthisis.

At a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council held on the 16th inst. a despatch from the Secretary of State with reference to the military contribution was laid on the table. Lord Ripon suggested that in future, instead of a fixed sum in sterling, 17½ per cent. of the revenue should be paid. The Governor, in addressing the Council on the despatch, said there were certain items of the revenue which ought to be exempted, as they had been in the Straits Settlements, items which might be called municipal revenue, and after the subject had been inquired into locally he would refer it to the Secretary of State.

An Adelaide telegram of the 22nd ult. to the *Northern Territory Times* reads as follows:—The Hon. J. L. Parsons, late Government Resident in the Northern Territory, has been appointed a Government Commissioner to visit China and Japan to inquire into the conditions of trade and manufactures in those countries and the prospects of establishing commercial relations with this colony. He leaves here in August next with a trial shipment of various products, the Government paying freight and all other charges. Mr. Parsons is also commissioned by the Pastoralists' Association to report on the prospects of establishing a wool trade with the East.

The *China Gazette* of the 12th inst. says:—We learn from a reliable authority at Hankow that the French gunboat *Lutin* left that port about ten days ago on a very mysterious mission. Her destination was kept a secret, but she was known to have a greatly augmented crew on board and was in charge of a pilot specially chosen for his knowledge of the Tungting lake. Our informant has since satisfied himself that that great inland sheet of water is her destination and that she is on a mission to impress the lawless Hunanese with the unpleasant fact, which they have always denied, that a foreign gunboat can get right up to Changsha. She has not been seen since she left Hankow by any passing steamer, and our informant has reason to believe that she has by this reached Changsha. If so the event is of great importance and significance.

According to a Tokyo news agency the Russian Government has advised the Chinese Government, with the consent of Japan, to pay 50,000,000 taels to Japan in compensation for the return of the Liaotung peninsula, and the Chinese Government has consented. The money will be raised through the intermediary of Russia.

With reference to the telegram via Australia to the effect that Japan is about to expend \$8,000,000 on the construction of ironclads in England to increase the Japanese navy, we believe the Japanese Government propose to order four large ironclads and four large cruisers to be built in England. These are in addition to the ships on the model of the *Centurion* now being built on the Thames and a cruiser at Newcastle-on-Tyne. The vote will first have to be submitted to the National Assembly, but there is little fear of its meeting opposition at the present juncture.

The half-yearly meeting of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Limited, was held on the 19th inst., when the report and accounts were unanimously adopted. Mr. E. Georg made some remarks with reference to the writing down of the Company's property and expressed the hope that at the next meeting a larger dividend might be declared. He also suggested that the shares of \$125 should be divided into five shares of \$25 each. Reference was also made to the report current as to the intended construction of a new Admiralty Dock. The Chairman in reply held out some slight expectation that an increased dividend might be paid for the present half-year; the question of sub-dividing the shares, he said, would receive consideration, and with regard to the new Admiralty Dock he said that nothing but preliminary negotiations had so far passed and nothing that could in any way be conveyed to the shareholders at present.

Considerable development has of late been going on at Cape St. James, where a small town is springing into existence, for the accommodation of visitors from Saigon, who go there for sea bathing and change of air. One of the Saigon papers, the *Courrier*, in a recent issue urges the construction of a jetty and the execution of works to form a small harbour where the native craft could find safe anchorage in all weathers. In concluding the article our contemporary says:—Hitherto we have spoken only of a small port the cost of which would be small as compared with its usefulness, and, for the moment, we confine ourselves to that. But it is permissible to look further ahead and take a wider view. The day will come when the piercing of the isthmus of Malacca will again be taken into consideration. The work is regarded as utopian only by the English, terrified at the idea of seeing Singapore ruined. When that time arrives, seeing that all vessels proceeding to the Far East, whatever their route, will have to make the Cape St. James light, we will be obliged to proceed with the creation of a great deep water harbour. The steamers will come there to fill their bunkers with Tonkin coal, the sailing vessels to take in water, and thus we will be able to turn to our profit an important commercial current, which otherwise, notwithstanding the loss of time, would be diverted to Toulon. All this is very fine, we fancy we hear some one say, but it would cost millions. That does not disconcert us, hoping as we do that when the time arrives Cochin-China will be able to raise a loan and to profit by it.

THE NEW FRANCO-CHINESE TREATY.

Reuter informs us that the Franco-Chinese Treaty only agrees to certain rectifications of the frontiers at Chieng-Hung and not to the cession of the whole of that state east of the Mekong. The portion, however, conceded is so considerable that it is expected the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1894 will be annulled. By that Convention Her Britannic Majesty, in consideration of the abandonment of the claims advanced by China to the territory lying outside and on the frontier of the Prefecture of Yung Chang and Sub-Prefecture of Teng Yueh, agreed to renounce in favour of His Majesty the Emperor of China, and of his heirs and successors for ever, all the suzerain rights in and over the states of Munglem and Kiang Hung (Chieng Hung or Keng Hung, as it is variously spelt) formerly possessed by the Kings of Ava concurrently with the Emperors of China; with the proviso that His Majesty the Emperor of China should not, without previously coming to an agreement with Her Britannic Majesty, cede either Munglem or Kiang Hung or any portion thereof to any other nation. The states of Keng Tung, Keng Cheng, and Keng Hung straddle the Mekong, the former being the most southerly, and Keng Hung the most northerly, bordering on Yunnan. Over these states Burmah possessed suzerain rights, and while Keng Hung was abandoned to China, the Indian Government has recently practically asserted its rights over the other states by sending a force to garrison Sittig, a town in the extreme east of Keng Cheng. The diplomacy of France has been directed to confining British rights to the right bank of the Mekong, but Great Britain has not conceded this point, her claims on the left bank, as regards the territory of the states above named, being clear and indefeasible.

If China has ceded any part of Keng Hung to France she has committed an infraction of her treaty with Great Britain, for which Lord SALISBURY will no doubt call her to account. It will be impossible for Great Britain to admit that France has acquired any rights by such infraction and the best thing that could be done would be to occupy the territory alleged to have been wrongfully ceded. It was intended that the so-called buffer state should be carved out of the states of Keng Hung, Keng Cheng, Keng Tung, and Nan, which latter lies further to the eastward, but since France has already begun to trench upon what was to have been constituted neutral ground Great Britain cannot give up any of her claims. The buffer state was to have been placed under the control of China, but as the latter has shown herself ready to give away what she had no right to so deal with she could not in the nature of things be entrusted with the guardianship of larger interests. In 1893 SIEH TA-JEN, the Minister to England, wrote to the Earl of ROSEBURY:—"As regards the buffer state which it is proposed to establish between the British and the French possessions on the Upper Mekong, and which your Lordship has been good enough to say Her Majesty's Government are desirous of placing under the sovereignty of China, I have the honour to state that in the event of its being of sufficient breadth, and the conditions attached to its acceptance free from any which, in the opinion of the Imperial Government, would be prejudicial to Chinese interests, they would be prepared to accept it if formally offered to them." This was very

gracious on China's part, no doubt, but she is not likely now to be asked to undertake the responsibilities attaching to sovereignty over the proposed State. Since 1893 a good many things have happened. In the conflict with Japan China has proved her helplessness for offence or defence, by the permission of vile outrages she has shown her anti-foreign spirit, and by the cession of Keng Hung territory to France she has added one more to the many proofs of her disregard for treaty obligations. If there is to be a buffer state between French and British territory on the Mekong it certainly should not be placed under Chinese sovereignty. But the whole idea of a buffer state appears to be a mistake. Let England clearly define her own sphere of influence and then see to it that no other power trespasses within that sphere.

TRADE IN KOREA IN 1894.

Particular interest attaches to the Consular report on the trade of Korea for last year, when the country was the scene of rebellion and war. The reports hitherto published by the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs of the trade at the Korean ports have now, of course, ceased to appear, and the greater value therefore attaches to the excellently written report of Mr. W. C. HILLIER, the Consul. Instead of being prejudicially affected by the rebellion and war, the trade of Korea in 1894 exceeded that of any previous year since the country was opened to foreign commerce. Mr. HILLIER thinks the effects of military occupation may possibly show themselves later, and that the commerce of the present year may feel the reaction of last year's experiences, "during which so much has happened that 'ought to paralyse trade.'" "But," the Consul adds, "this is a country of surprises, and it contains so many latent resources which require only encouragement and fair play to develop them, that 'sanguine predictions as to the future are always justifiable.'" It appears, too, that the Japanese occupation has introduced a large amount of money into the country, which is calculated to stimulate trade, and with the establishment of law and order the probability seems rather in favour of a continued improvement in trade than a falling off.

In this increase of trade, however, England, it is to be feared, will possess but a small share. The most noticeable feature in the import trade last year was the large increase of goods of Japanese manufacture. The Manchester goods, Mr. HILLIER says, are undeniably better than the Japanese copies, but the difference in price is so great that the latter bid fair in time to run Manchester goods very hard. Not only do they bid fair to do so, but they are already doing so. "The low rate of exchange prevailing and likely to prevail, the cheap labour procurable in Japan, the saving which is effected by dispensing with tarpaulin and iron hoops in packing, not to mention tin-lined cases for the finer class of goods, and the diminished cost of freight are all powerful factors on the side of Japan in her competition with England and America, and at present the Japanese are under-selling Manchester goods with profits calculated at from 15 to 30 per cent." These remarks are almost as applicable to the Eastern markets in general as to Korea in particular and the competition is likely to become more and more keen as the projected Shanghai mills under foreign auspices come into operation. In enumerating the advantages enjoyed by Japan over Manchester Mr. HILLIER places low exchange first, but he mentions also cheap labour, the saving

in packing, and the diminished cost of freight. As to the influence of low exchange, there may possibly be some difference of opinion, but as to the advantages of cheap labour, cheap packing, and cheap freights there can be no dispute. English manufacturers have to face the fact that the Far East is becoming a great manufacturing district and that there is nothing in view likely to check its progress in this direction. What British manufacturers have to do, if they still wish to exploit the market, is to adapt themselves to the altered circumstances, introducing new goods in the place of those which are now made on the spot and no longer require to be imported.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

As was to be expected, both the Government and the unofficial members of the Legislative Council recognise that under the new system of levying the military contribution there are certain items of the revenue that it would be unjust to include in the general revenue and charge with the percentage of 17 $\frac{1}{2}$. In the Straits Settlements the municipal revenues amount to rather more than one-fifth of the municipal and general revenues combined. It is proposed to place Hongkong in the same position as the Straits, and as we have here no division of the municipal and general revenue, the whole being merged in one, at least a fifth of the revenue should be considered as municipal and be exempted from payment of the military contribution. This is a simple matter of account and does not admit of any dispute on equitable grounds. The point has evidently not presented itself to the minds of the inter-departmental committee which recently considered the whole question of the military contributions of the Crown Colonies, and no doubt when it is brought to the attention of the Colonial Office it will be considered somewhat unwelcome, as the subject was thought to have been finally decided and done with, but justice is so plainly on the side of the colony that the point must be conceded. The home Government, wishing to treat all the colonies alike, could not claim to levy 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the whole revenue of Hongkong while levying that percentage in other colonies only on the general as distinct from the municipal revenue, as in that case Hongkong would be paying about one-fifth more than any other colony in proportion to its resources. Instead of being \$353,000 for the present year, the contribution ought to be only \$282,000. It would be unjust to make the colony pay an extra \$70,000 merely because it happens not to enjoy the advantages of municipal institutions. As the case is stated by Lord RIFON, instead of any relief being afforded to the colony the mullet would be actually increased. At present the amount payable is £40,000. Instead of that fixed sum in sterling the late Secretary of State proposes we should pay 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the total revenue, or, say, \$353,000, with an addition of \$25,000 for barrack accommodation, making a total of \$378,000. At the rate of 2s. 2d. to the dollar, which is only a fraction over the present rate, that sum in dollars would amount to £41,000. On the whole, however, a percentage of the revenue seems the fairest way of levying the contribution, even if the exchange should run in favour of the home Government, as it now seems likely to do; but it is essential that so much of the revenue as can be described as purely municipal should be exempted from the levy. The additional and entirely new charge for barrack accommodation also requires careful examination. The 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., we think, should be accepted as payment in full.

MR. WODEHOUSE ON THE FIRE INQUIRY ORDINANCE.

An important point in connection with the procedure at fire inquiries was raised at an inquiry held on the 13th inst. by the Hon. H. E. WODEHOUSE. The case itself is still *sub judice* and it would be improper to express any opinion on its merits, nor, in fact, has the inquiry proceeded far enough to allow of an opinion being formed. The point of procedure, however, has nothing to do with the merits of the case and may fairly be discussed. Prior to the passing of the Fire Inquiry Ordinance of 1888 fires had for some time been remarkably frequent and it was suspected that the greater number of them were due to the premises being purposely set on fire with a view to defrauding the Insurance Companies. It was believed that if an inquiry into the origin of each fire were held it would exercise a wholesome check on the crime of incendiarism. This belief was justified by the result, for after the passing of the Ordinance there was a great falling off in the number of fires. The whole object of the Ordinance was to provide a ready means of ascertaining whether the fire was the result of crime, and it is provided that where, upon consideration of the police report, the Magistrate is clearly of opinion that the fire was caused by accident no inquiry need be held. It is further provided that in relation to investigations held under the Ordinance the Magistrate is to have all the powers possessed by a Magistrate in relation to the holding of preliminary inquiries in cases of indictable offences; and, in a previous section, that "It shall be lawful for any Inspector of Police, or for any interested person present at such investigation, with the leave of the Magistrate, to examine the witnesses, and to cause such persons to be examined as may give due and proper information touching such case of fire." The intention appears to have been that the investigations should be conducted, generally speaking, in the same way as preliminary inquiries in criminal cases, including the right of interested parties to cross-examine the witnesses. Mr. WODEHOUSE, however, held otherwise, his ruling on Tuesday being to the effect that a solicitor representing an Insurance Company had no right of cross-examination, that he was only present to watch the inquiry, and that his presence was subject to any restrictions the Magistrate in his discretion might think fit to impose. This appears to us to be opposed both to the spirit and the letter of the Ordinance, but assuming it to be up held as good law, then the Ordinance stands in need of amendment. It is already provided that interested parties have a right, with the leave of the Magistrate, to examine witnesses. It ought to be made clear, if there is any doubt on the point, that the Insurance Companies, through their representatives, have as full a right to cross-examine the witnesses as they would have in a criminal prosecution. Otherwise the Ordinance is likely to be shorn of a good deal of its utility. The crime of arson is occasionally perpetrated as a means of revenge, but in the generality of cases the object is fraud and the Insurance Companies are the people to be defrauded. They are therefore the most interested people in fire inquiries and their right to cross-examine the witnesses ought to be established, both for their own protection and that of the public. Should any amendment of the Ordinance be deemed necessary on this point occasion might also be taken to amend section 7, which provides that "No Magistrate who has

"held a judicial investigation and given an order in any matter under section 5 of this Ordinance shall conduct the preliminary inquiry upon any such charge of crime, but the same shall be conducted by another Magistrate." With only one Magistrate it would be impossible to comply with that section. The services of the Marine Magistrate might, it is true, be availed of, but under existing circumstances that officer would not have time for the duty, nor does it seem desirable, on general grounds, that it should be thrown upon him.

II.

The remarks made by the Hon. H. E. WODEHOUSE on Friday in justification of the view he entertains of the Fire Inquiry Ordinance, and of the rights of the representatives of the Insurance Companies to cross-examine the witnesses, are entirely unconvincing. Mr. WODEHOUSE seems so completely at sea on the subject that it is difficult to discuss his views seriously. As a sample of his confusion of mind the following extraordinary dictum may be quoted:— "Cross-examination must be on evidence that has been previously given and cannot be carried out on points not yet raised during the inquiry." If this is Mr. WODEHOUSE's deliberate opinion he must be ignorant of the very ABC of the law of evidence. There are no restrictions on cross-examination except that it must be on points relevant to the subject of the inquiry, and alike in criminal and civil cases it is not an unusual thing for a witness to be placed in the box to afford the defence an opportunity of cross-examining him, although he may not have been called upon to give any evidence-in-chief. Re-examination must be on evidence that has previously been given, but that is quite a different thing from cross-examination. As to the object of the Fire Inquiry Ordinance, Mr. WODEHOUSE says it is to ascertain the cause of fires, an indisputable proposition, but it stops short of the final conclusion, which is, that the object of ascertaining the cause of fires is to ascertain whether there has or has not been crime. That is the point that ought to be present in the Magistrate's mind throughout and to which the investigation should be directed—crime or no crime? Where it is clear from the beginning that there has been no crime the Ordinance does not require an investigation to be held, but in doubtful cases, where there is a possibility the fire may have been caused by incendiarism, the Ordinance directs the holding of an investigation for the elucidation of that very point. And for that purpose evidence as to the amount of the insurance and the value of the goods in stock is most material.

DR. AYRES ON THE SANITARY BOARD.

The colony is indebted to Dr. AYRES for some highly amusing if not very instructive reading concerning the Sanitary Board and its shortcomings, which he has incorporated in his annual report. That the Sanitary Board has been guilty of sins of omission and commission cannot be denied, but with all its defects it has proved a vast improvement on the system, or want of system, that preceded it. The Colonial Surgeon is affected with the common official jealousy of the unofficial element on the Board, but his own report affords material for a comparison that works out very unfavourably for officialdom. He reproduces two reports he made within five months of his arrival in the colony, in 1874, which disclosed a most lamentable and disgraceful state of things. There was no Sanitary Board in those days on which to throw the blame for allowing such a state of things to arise or for impos-

ing obstacles to its amendment. But action was deprecated, as "to do anything effectually in the matter would occupy much preparation, and much time, and would involve a very considerable outlay." That was officialdom. The Sanitary Board has never committed itself to any such outrageous sentiment as that. Then the Colonial Surgeon's report for 1874 was buried altogether, on the principle that where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise, and it was not until 1878 that that famous document became public property. No such charge of suppressing information can be laid to the charge of the Sanitary Board. Dr. AYRES blames the Board for obstructing sanitary reform in the interests of the landlords. The landlords themselves tell a very different tale and some of them would be glad to compass the destruction of the Board, hoping for a resumption of the lenient treatment they received in the old days of uncontrolled officialdom. Reference is also made by Dr. AYRES to the inaction of the Board in regard to overcrowding. But long before the plague brought things to a crisis the Board had recognised the evil, had fully and laboriously investigated it, and had passed by-laws for its suppression, which, however, had not been brought into force. Dr. AYRES might have mentioned that the evil had been fully recognised before the days of the Sanitary Board, but that the Government declined to take any active steps in the matter. Dr. AYRES touches, too, on the question of a Municipal Council. He thinks such an institution impossible, on account of the want of responsible men who possess the confidence of the public and who would be willing to give up their time for the purpose. That is a view held by many others, unofficials as well as officials. It is said merchants have no time to devote to public affairs, and that they prefer that officials should be paid to attend to them. The view is a comprehensible one, but if adopted it must be adopted with all its disadvantages. It is not less true of communities than of individuals, that if you want a thing done well you must do it yourself. In Shanghai the community manages its own affairs and manages them much better than the affairs of Hongkong are managed. We do not believe Shanghai would willingly see its Municipal Council swept away, as Dr. AYRES seems to think, in order that it might be replaced by a system of uncontrolled officialdom.

SPAIN AND THE JAPANESE ACQUISITION OF FORMOSA.

It may be accepted as a sign of the marked interest with which the Spanish Government regard the acquisition of Formosa by Japan that the Spanish Minister in Tokyo should have telegraphed to Madrid the fact that a protocol has been concluded between China and Japan in which the limit of Formosa is recognised as the centre of the Bashee Channel, without pretensions to the islands to the south and south-east. The islands to the south of the Bashee Channel, including the Bashee Islands, form the province of Batanes in the Philippines, and this consists principally of the Batan group. It will be seen therefore that the Spanish Government had good reason to feel an interest in the definition of the boundaries of Formosa as taken over by Japan. At a moment when a serious civil war is raging in Cuba, the Pearl of the Antilles, which is taxing all the energies of Spain to suppress, it is only natural that she should regard with some anxiety the prospects for the future of the Philippines, her most valuable colonial possession. This magni-

fient group, which consists of 408 islands exclusive of rocks and uninhabited islets, contains an area of 113,400 square miles, and possesses landlocked waters, furnishing unrivalled facilities for interior communication, of almost equal superficies. The land everywhere is abundantly watered, abounding in rivers and lakes, and in almost every portion is of surpassing fertility. Its productions are of the most varied description, and but for the apathy of the inhabitants it would surpass in wealth any country in Asia. It was won for Spain almost entirely by the efforts of the priests, who have not only civilised and humanised the natives, but have brought a large share of the civil administration of the islands under the rule of the Church. This has probably been an advantage in the past, but the times have changed and the conditions call for some relaxation of rules and customs that press with great rigour on trade and effectually restrict all commercial enterprise. The time is coming when Spain will have to justify her *raison d'être* in the Philippines, and the sooner this fact is recognised the better for Spanish interests. With a vigorous and progressive neighbour like Japan, separated by only 175 miles of sea, it will not do for the Spaniards to go to sleep in the drowsy atmosphere of Luzon. They will need to bring their customs regulations into harmony with those of civilised states, and they will do well to set to work to make roads and railways in the islands. The fact that, after more than three centuries of Spanish occupation, much of the archipelago remains to be explored and not a little to be subdued, is a sad commentary on the laxity of the Spaniards and their failure to perform their duty as administrators. The islands of Mindanao and Palawan are still almost unknown to their nominal rulers and many of the coasts have been very imperfectly surveyed. Perhaps the near vicinity of a growing maritime Power on their northern boundary may arouse the indolent Spaniard to greater activity in the future.

THE SITUATION IN SOUTH FORMOSA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Anping, 16th August.

Perfect tranquility continues to be the order of the day, but the prospects of trade are not encouraging, owing to the uncertainty of the future and the difficulty of establishing a cash system, upon which basis alone is business now possible.

H.M.S. *Redbreast* left for Amoy yesterday, and the port is now without protection, which speaks well for the confidence placed in Liu. The community would feel perfectly content to be without a guard were they sure that the British fleet were actively engaged in obtaining retribution for the cruel massacre near Foochow, news of which reached this by the *Thales*.

A private letter from a resident in Anping was received in Hongkong yesterday. It stated that the Japanese army was within fifteen miles of Anping. The journey before the soldiers, who number five thousand, was very rough and hilly and therefore they would not arrive in Anping for four or five days. Four thousand rebels were preparing to resist to the utmost the entrance of the Japanese into Anping, and heavy fighting was expected.

A Foochow telegram of the 12th inst. to the *Mercury* says:—Last night at eight o'clock two stones were thrown into the Foochow Club. The Foreign cemetery has been broken into and some iron railings stolen.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Friday afternoon. Present:—

His Excellency the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Hon. W. M. GOODMAN, Attorney-General.

Hon. A. M. THOMSON, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

Hon. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works.

Hon. Commander W. C. H. HASTINGS, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police.

Hon. A. K. TRAVERS, Postmaster-General.

Hon. C. P. CHATER.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. A. McCONACHIE.

Hon. J. J. BELL-LEWING.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE, Acting Clerk of Councils.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.—STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR.

His EXCELLENCE—Gentlemen, when I adjourned the Council *sine die* on the 6th June I said I hoped we would not meet for the regular session until the autumn—October or November—but I also stated that it was possible we might have one or two meetings in the meantime. When I made that statement I had in my mind first, the question of the military contribution and second the question of the British dollar. With regard to the military contribution the Colonial Secretary will lay upon the table despatches and papers which, I may mention, were communicated to the unofficial members some time ago, and the documents he has had their consideration. I may also add that the Government and the unofficial members are of opinion that although there is a sensible reduction in the contribution proposed there are certain items of the revenue which ought to be exempted, as they have been in the Straits Settlements. These items might reasonably be called municipal items, and when the matter has been fully enquired into locally I shall refer the matter to the Secretary of State in the hope that he will take the same view of the question as has been taken in the Straits Settlements, and as is held by the unofficial members and the Government. With regard to the British dollar you will see a reference in the papers to an Ordinance to prevent the defacing or chopping of the coin. It is very necessary that this Ordinance and the other three Ordinances on the paper should pass through all their stages this afternoon, and I hope hon. members will consent to that being done.

DOCUMENTS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid the following documents on the table—Despatches with reference to the Military Contribution, Acting Assessor's Report on the Assessment for 1895-96, Postmaster General's report for 1894, Educational Report for 1894, Despatch respecting the repeal of Ordinance 1 of 1864, Colonial Surgeon's Report for 1894, and a report on the progress of Public Works for the first half of 1895.

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the adoption of the report of the proceedings of the Finance Committee.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS moved the adoption of the report of the proceedings of the Public Works Committee.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Carried.

NEW BY-LAWS APPROVED.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that two by-laws made by the Sanitary Board be approved. One referred to the adequate provision of water for cattle and the other to the regulation of public laundries.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded.

Carried.

KOWLOON WATER SUPPLY.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—in moving the resolution that stands in my name I may explain that it refers to the laying on of water in certain districts in Kowloon. The usual course adopted when a district which has hitherto been without a water supply has water laid on is the one that

is explained in the resolution. I move “(1) That the percentages on the valuation of tenements in Yaumati and Kowloon Point at present payable as rates under the Rating Ordinance, 1888, as amended by Ordinance 5 of 1892, be altered from 10½ per cent. to 12½ per cent. (2) That the percentage on the valuation of tenements in Hung Hom at present payable as rates under the Rating Ordinance, 1888, as amended by Ordinance 5 of 1892, be altered from 8½ per cent. to 10½ per cent. (3) That the percentages on the valuation of tenements in Mong Kok-tsu in at present payable as rates under the Rating Ordinance, 1888, as amended by Ordinance 5 of 1892, be altered from 7 per cent. to 9 per cent.”

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded.

In answer to his Excellency,

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said it was expected that the water would be supplied at high pressure at the beginning of next year.

THE PUBLICATION OF STORM WARNINGS.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—I beg to give notice that at the next meeting of Council I shall put the following question. In the report of the Director of the Observatory for 1894 the fourth paragraph runs:—“In my last annual report I stated that Victoria Peak and Gap Rock would shortly be placed in direct communication with the Observatory. This improvement has not yet been effected, and the wind observations made at Victoria Peak are often received too late for insertion in the China Coast Register, and latterly no observations have been received until about 2.30 p.m. and frequently later than this each day. This apparently arises to a great extent from the roundabout method by which the observations are forwarded to the United Telegraph Offices in Queen's Road for transmission to the Observatory. The importance of the wind observations from Victoria Peak has frequently been insisted on by me, but their value is at once discounted through the delay in transmission.” In view of the great importance of the storm warnings to the shipping of the port, and the impossibility of the Director of the Observatory giving accurate weather forecasts unless supplied with the wind observations promptly, may I ask if steps have since been taken to ensure the early and regular transmission of such observations from the Peak and Gap Rock to the observatory, and to whose neglect was due the delay in carrying into thorough effect so obviously necessary a system of communication?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—With Your Excellency's permission I will answer that question at once by informing the hon. member that the Peak and Telegraph Office are now in direct communication, and that hourly observations are telegraphed across to the Observatory. (Applause).

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—Thank you.

THE PLANS FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS then asked the following question, of which he had given notice at the previous meeting—Is it the intention of the Government to invite competitive designs from local architects for the proposed new Government offices, or do the Government propose that the designs shall be prepared and the work carried out by the Public Works Department?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The answer to the former part of the question is no, and to the latter part yes.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

The following Bills were, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, read the first time:—The River Steamers Ordinance; an Ordinance to prohibit the defacing or chopping of British dollars; an Ordinance to amend the Trade Marks Ordinance, (Nos. 16 of 1873 and 8 of 1886), and an Ordinance to further amend the Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance, No. 26 of 1891.

BILL WITHDRAWN.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Sir, I propose with your permission not to proceed any further with the reading of the Ordinance to repeal Ordinance No. 1 of 1864 entitled “An Ordinance to provide for conversion of British currency in all payments by or to the Government.” The Ordinance in question, No. 1 of 1864, has already been repealed by Her Majesty's Order in Council. Under the charter of the colony Her Majesty reserves to herself independent power of legislation with the advice of her Privy Council; and as by an order of Her

Majesty in Privy Council this Ordinance has already been repealed it is unnecessary for us to repeal it again by action in the Legislative Council. As a matter of fact it ceased to be in force last February.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second. I may mention that I have laid upon the table the dispatch of the Secretary of State bearing upon the subject.

Carried.

The Standing Orders were then suspended.

THE RIVER STEAMERS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the River Steamers Ordinance. The Bill is an exceedingly simple one and consists of only two clauses. The first clause defines a river steamer, and it is the definition given to a river steamer under the local Shipping Act. The second clause provides that "If any person travels, or attempts to travel in, any river steamer without paying his fare, and with intent to avoid payment thereof, such person and every person aiding or abetting him shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$25 and in default of payment to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding one month; and any such person so found on board may be taken before a Magistrate without warrant and such Magistrate may summarily hear the case and on proof of the offence convict the offender as aforesaid." This Bill is brought forward at the special request of the River Steamboat Company. They feel they have a hardship in that they have no means of punishing persons who board their steamers at Canton and when they get to Hongkong decline to pay the fare. If a person refuses to pay a ricksha coolie's fare the coolie prosecutes him at the Police Court, but the Steamboat Company have no such remedy. The matter arose in this way. The Imperial Merchant Shipping Act has two sections dealing with the subject and one of them provides that if a person secretes himself and goes to sea in a ship without obtaining consent he shall be liable to a penalty of £20 or imprisonment. The question, however, would arise as to whether a river steamer ever really went to sea; that is one of those legal technicalities which are more appreciated in the Police Court and in other courts than by the general public. It was held that Ordinance 22 of 1890 only applied to persons about to leave this port and therefore when a man who came to this port from Canton without paying his fare was prosecuted before the Magistrate it was held that the Ordinance did not apply to such a case. The result was that as there is no satisfactory remedy the River Steamboat Company asked to have this Bill passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second and I feel sure that the bill will receive the support of my hon. friend opposite.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—In suggesting this Bill to the Government I was struck by the fact that these men who did not pay their fares or hold tickets came here to increase the criminal list of the colony, and I think the Bill will prevent beggars coming here to fill our prisons.

Bill read a second time.

Council went into Committee.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—One more remark is necessary. I trust that the facilities given to the Company to punish and put into gaol those who do not pay will not encourage any laxity on the part of the steamboat people, and put the ratepayers to the expense of detaining beggars in prison. I trust that adequate measures will be taken by the Steamboat Company, in whose interest this Bill is being passed, to prevent beggars coming here. They could adopt a very simple precaution by putting someone on the gangway at Canton. A Chinese beggar tries to make himself loathsome and cannot be mistaken for anyone else, and by preventing him from coming to the colony a great boon would be conferred upon Hongkong. It has been considered by us whether it would not be necessary to make some provisions whereby beggars should be taken back to Canton by those persons who brought them here, but I trust it will not be necessary to resort to any such legislation. It is quite possible, with proper care, for the Steamboat Company to prevent that.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—On behalf of the Steamboat Company I assure you we shall take

all measures to prevent anything of that kind taking place. (Hear, hear.)

Council resumed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

CHOPPING OF DOLLARS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of an Ordinance to prohibit the defacing or chopping of British dollars. I have already appended to the Bill my reasons for it, and they are—"The object of this Ordinance is to prohibit the defacing and chopping of British dollars. Section 4 (1) of the Hongkong (Coinage) Order, 1895, renders valid a tender of British dollars only where such coins have not been dealt with in any manner prohibited by law. A tender of chopped British dollars will therefore, after the passing of this Ordinance, cease to be a valid tender, and the last two lines of this Bill merely insert in the Bill the effect of the Order in Council." I have the Order in Council here. If the law says that the coins are not to be chopped and people, in spite of the law, insist upon chopping them the inevitable result will be that they will cease to be legal tender. It is not proposed to make any terrible penalty, but people will understand that the chopping of British dollars will prevent them from being legal tender in Hongkong.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second. On behalf of the Government I think it is only right it should be stated that in considering this question—which is not at all an easy one—the Government was much indebted to the assistance it received from financial institutions in the colony and also in England. I would also specially mention the name of Mr. T. Jackson, who has had a long and wide experience of the currency of the East. The Government is also much indebted to him for his advice and assistance in this particular matter.

Carried.

The Bill went through all its stages and passed.

THE TRADE MARKS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Ordinance to amend the Trade Marks Ordinances (Nos. 16 of 1873 and 8 of 1886). There are two reasons for the introduction of this Bill. The first is to prevent applications in future being made through the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It will be remembered that at one time all applications for registration of trade marks had to be made through the Governor. Then applications were allowed to the Secretary of State. This proceeding led to a difficulty, because owing to the remarkable fluctuations in the value of the dollar, which were not always taken into account, a cheque was very often made payable at the rate of 4/2 to the dollar, and as this was altogether disproportionate the amounts had to be adjusted. Therefore the Secretary of State decided that it would be better to have all applications made to the Governor of the colony. Another reason for the Bill is to provide that proper notice of applications to the Governor shall be given, so that persons objecting to them may have an opportunity of lodging their objections prior to the granting of such applications, and this was granted at the request of the Chamber of Commerce. The period first fixed for lodging objections was in England two months, but this was afterwards thought to be rather long and it was changed to one month or such further time not exceeding three months as the Controller might allow. It is suggested by the Chamber of Commerce that there should be an interval of three months between the application and the granting of it, because if the agents out here suspected that there was something wrong they might have an opportunity of applying to their principals in England and take advice as to whether they should oppose the granting of such a trade mark in this colony. I at first thought that as in not more than one per cent. of the applications—as far as I remember there were only one or two cases in all the applications made during last year and the year before in which the Governor was asked to cancel the registration—as there was such a small percentage of objections, I thought that it was a pity ninety-nine should be delayed for so long a time in order that the hundredth might be prevented from taking his trade mark. But in a matter of this kind, which particularly concerns the Chamber of Commerce, I thought their wishes should be consulted and allowed if possible. Therefore in drawing this Bill I have done so in order to comply with

the request of the Chamber of Commerce. The applications must be advertised, but we do want to make them too expensive. One difficulty might arise. I do not quite see how a facsimile of a trade mark can be readily advertised. I presume the advertisement would have to be of a descriptive nature. I think if it was advertised for a period of not less than three months there would be every opportunity for those who think there is anything wrong to go to the Colonial Secretary's office where they could make any objection.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I second the motion. To my mind, although I must confess I have not had much practical experience of trade marks, if a trade mark is worth anything it is worth advertising in the papers, and I should think there would be no objection on that score.

Carried.

Bill read clause by clause and passed.

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING CONSOLIDATION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—There is a Bill not on the order of the day which I propose to read the second time with your permission. The notice has been very short, and it will be for you to decide whether we shall proceed with it. It is an Ordinance to further amend the Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance, No. 26 of 1891. Under our Merchant Shipping Ordinance a master is required to state the number of passengers he proposes to carry on his projected voyage. In some instances after the immigrants have gone on board and been passed by the Examining Officer somebody—I do not suppose it is either the owner or master intentionally, but somebody has been in the habit of introducing perhaps half a dozen more on board who have not been passed at all. The only way this is found out is by comparing the number of immigrants who have gone on board at Hongkong and been taken, say, to Singapore, with the number on the document required to be given by the master to procure the port clearance. The Protector of Chinese at Singapore had found out that these extra persons had not passed the immigration officer, and therefore somebody had cheated the Government of 25 cents for each examination. You might say, "Why don't you prosecute the master?" But you have got to prove your case; you have got to prove that a certain number of passengers did arrive at Singapore, and affidavits would be useless, because they are not received as evidence in criminal cases. The officer from Singapore would have to come here to prove that he saw a number of persons going off the steamer in excess of the number stated in the port clearance. That would cause great delay and it might be a great inconvenience for a Government officer to leave Singapore, come here to give evidence, and then go back again. It seems to me that the addition of the words "attempt to leave" the waters of the colony would be sufficient to meet the case. At present the law only relates to steamers which have left the waters of the colony. Now, however, if a master got under weigh with an excess of passengers it would be held that he had the intention of leaving the waters of the colony; then he is in our jurisdiction, and you have got an officer who can say "Here is the port clearance; there were so many passengers in excess." This measure, I think, will meet the deficiency in the law, and a prompt prosecution will doubtless put an end to the evil.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second. Every hon. member will, I am sure, agree with the object of this Bill. If, as we have often heard it stated, shipping is the life blood of Hongkong, emigration is one of the most important arteries and I think you will agree with me that emigration from this port should be above suspicion. All possible steps should be taken to prevent the smuggling of emigrants on board ship and this Bill being a step in that direction, I am sure it will receive the support of all hon. members.

Hon. A. McCONACHE asked how a captain was to protect himself? These people were put on board and stowed away in all sorts of corners. It was an impossibility for the captain to count all the passengers, and an innocent man might be unable to protect himself.

The ACTING CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said it was possible for an innocent man to be prosecuted, but the police were always near the boat and the chance was very small. At present it was impossible to do anything

The other day a German steamer chartered by Chinese was found with 112 passengers on board in excess of the certified number, and the case was dismissed. There was no innocence about that.

Carried.

In Committee the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in answer to Hon. A. McConachie, said a master's liabilities commenced the moment he weighed anchor and it would be a very good thing for a master, if he found after starting that he had got an excess of passengers on board, to be able to stop his ship and communicate with the police in the harbour, and so get rid of the excess passengers. A new principle was not being introduced; it was only a question of proving the case without the inconvenience of calling people from Singapore and so that the law should not be a dead letter owing to that inconvenience.

Bill went through all its stages and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

His EXCELLENCY—I am very glad to be able to announce that owing to the kind assistance I have received from unofficial members I can again adjourn the Council *sine die*.

THE COLONIAL SURGEON "ON THE RAMPAGE."

A "SLATING" FOR THE SANITARY BOARD.

The report for 1894 of Dr. Ayres, Colonial Surgeon, was laid before the Legislative Council on Friday. The earlier portion of it is of the usual routine order, and the writer then proceeds to deal with the question of sanitation and the constitution of the Sanitary Board. Having briefly described the state of things existing in the earlier period of his tenure of office, Dr. Ayres proceeds as follows:—

By Mr. Chadwick's recommendation a Sanitary Board was appointed in 1882, relieving me of a burden which I had borne for eleven years. In 1887 Mr. Chadwick was again sent out and expressed much surprise at the little that had been done in the six years since his previous visit, and by his advice the Sanitary Board was reconstituted and enlarged, the Public Health Ordinance revised and enlarged as regards its powers, as also the Building Ordinance; and since that many other amendments have been made with accompanying by-laws and a Land Resumption Ordinance sanctioned, and others in connection with sanitation, water supply, drainage, &c.

The water supply has been nearly completed, but the quantity is found to be insufficient; the quality of the supply has been proved by monthly analysis to be superior to that of most English towns.

The main drainage is nearly completed, but as regards house drainage is still far from complete.

The Building Ordinance refers only to new buildings and existing buildings previous to this Ordinance remain the same.

The Land Resumption Ordinance until 1894 remained a dead letter.

The Sanitary Board as reconstituted meets fortnightly and at times of alarm, as in the case of the small-pox epidemic and the cholera scare, holds frequent emergency meetings. Voluminous reports have been made, and some of them published, by sub-Committees, the Superintendent and Secretary of the Board, Mr. McCallum, the Sanitary Surveyor, Mr. Crook, the Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. Ladds, under whom are the markets, slaughter-houses and cattle depots and lairs, and by the Board Inspectors. The Board's officers have had some praise sparingly given, but one and all have been severely and at times censured in no measured terms by some members of the Board for having in their zeal for the service done things which required immediate attention and common sense sanctioned being done, and on being reported at the next Board meeting received the censure as their reward for doing things without the previous sanction of the Board.

The official members of the Board in their several capacities have had metaphorical missiles thrown at them in unstinted supplies.

The want of a Medical Health Officer as Superintendent, many times insisted on by me from the beginning as an absolute necessity, but from economical motives ignored till Mr. McCallum's health broke down completely from the overwork of doing the double duty which

necessitated his being out and about the greater part of the day and doing his office work at night. The necessity of a Medical Officer of Health then began to dawn upon them generally and was fully recognized when the plague began.

Long wordy, windy, desultory, rambling discussions are held by the Board at their fortnightly meetings ending in nothing being done. Sub-Committee's reports, called for in many cases as a means of delaying action, and in abortive attempts at action, as in the case of the sub-Committee's report on overcrowding when threats of riots and strike, amongst the Chinese, moderated the tone of the majority of the Board, when it appeared that the mercantile community and the general public would be seriously inconvenienced, and things were relegated to the future for further consideration; as in the case of the sub-Committee appointed to enquire into the Fat-Boiling Nuisance to which I referred in my annual report for 1893, whose report although referring to the condition of filth and general insanitation of the houses in which this business was conducted, situated in First, Second, Third, and High Streets, some of those being houses the insanitary condition of which I mentioned in my report of the 15th April, 1874, were situated to the west of the hospital in High, First, Second, and Third Streets. Mr. Ede and Mr. Humphreys, unofficial members of the Board, the sub-Committee appointed, inspected these premises and sent in a report in which they said:—"Nearly the whole of the houses are in a most dilapidated condition. The floors were reeking with filth. The drainage was very bad, smell abominable. In some of the houses were dark holes in which there were quantities of decomposing and putrid meat, fat and bones, and one of them filled with maggots. The stench from these places was unbearable." I inspected these houses also and found them in the same condition I had reported twenty years ago; fat-boiling was going on there, but with the assistance of the Registrar-General, I had them cleared out and suppressed that business in the neighbourhood of the hospital. It had begun again of late years and I have often reported them before with result that the nuisance has abated for a time. When this report was read before the Board I stated that these houses were in as disgusting a condition as many of the worse slums of the central district of Taipingshan, independently of the fat-boiling, that many other houses in the same streets where no fat-boiling was done were in the same filthy and insanitary condition, and that these houses were, in my opinion, unfit for human habitation. The Board then recommended—"That the tenants should be called upon to abate the nuisance,"—which was done. The Board also recommended—"That the landlords should be notified to put these houses in proper order." That the notices were served is proved by the papers attached to the documents which had been before the Board, but there is no record to show that the landlords paid any attention to the notification, and no further steps appear to have been taken in the matter and it ended in nothing being done. The houses in these streets, next to the walled up portion of Taipingshan, were the worst centres of the plague-stricken districts; scores of them were closed as unfit for human habitation and remain so to this day.

Reports of the Board's Sanitary Surveyor on houses requiring re-draining are continually being referred back for further report in the interest of the landlords or the tenants whose rights must not be infringed upon, or only sanctioned conditionally, or refused sanction altogether on account of insufficient water supply rendering re-draining incompatible, in the opinion of some members, with the necessities of the case.

The powers given to the Board to act are not used because they are insufficient, because they interfere with the rights of the landlord, the tenant, or the public. Action is deprecated in every possible way. The Board's legal members are great in explaining what the Board cannot do in consequence of the want of sufficient powers and but little light is afforded to the Board by them as to what can be done with the limited powers the Board possesses. Every care was taken to hamper the Board in doing anything, and every opportunity to declaim on the iniquity of the water supply not being in the hands of the Board, the want of powers to act,

the need for reform (especially municipal reform) and the very great need of a Municipal Council to save the colony from destruction. All sorts of wild theories are promulgated and beautiful plays are acted for the benefit of the gallery occupied by the reporters of the public press, who furnish the papers with jesting and caustic reports of the discussions to the great amusement of the public, and subject those members desirous of doing the work for which they were appointed to unlimited chaff; the reports of the Board's meetings being looked forward to as a source of amusement in these dull times.

When the plague began a small and Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board was appointed to see necessary things done to stamp out its invasion. The meetings were held daily and in the beginning were rather of a stormy character. There was no gallery, I mean no reporters, but the majority meant business and would recognize no rights but the public welfare, and landlords and lessees who had fattened on the profits of the disgusting and filthy dens for years had to submit to forego those profits for the future. Many houses have been taken away from them altogether and the Land Resumption Ordinance put in force; scores of other houses have been closed as unfit for human habitation until the required alterations necessary to render them fit are made; hundreds of others have had a definite period fixed to put them in order with the threat of closure unless those orders are obeyed. And it has been shown very definitely that a great deal could be done in a very short time when necessity that knows no law required it.

The Chinese have received a very necessary and salutary lesson that riots and strikes will no longer be permitted to override the law, and I desire to protest against their being permitted any interference in or control over hospitals for epidemic disease in the future after our experience of the past year.

I deprecate any accommodation being sanctioned by Government for plague patients not under European supervision in the immediate neighbourhood of the colony in future. The condition of things existing at the Laichikok Hospital and cemetery was correctly described by the medical staff employed by the Government in their letter dated July 2nd, 1894. The reports given by other medical men at the request of Government, dated July 8th, 1894, although the hospital had been specially cleansed and prepared with supplies of disinfectants for their reception, confirmed the danger to the colony of this institution, for they said—"The whole number of patients under treatment was \$58. . . . Of this number about one third were suffering from plague and less than half came from Hongkong. The plague patients were scattered promiscuously amongst the others." This was while we were doing our best in the colony to single out plague patients, and these other patients were daily being dismissed from the hospital to spread the infection they had contracted in the hospital over the Kowloon peninsula. That they did so was fully proved by the fact that only a few isolated cases appeared on the Kowloon peninsula before the troops had thoroughly cleansed and whitewashed all the houses, yet after this had been done and when the plague was fast dying out in Hongkong in the latter part of July the plague cases were steadily increasing on the Kowloon peninsula and it continued there to the last. The latest case occurred in October, long after any case occurred in Hongkong and the youth died in hospital three days after.

Moreover a patient, that had been deported from the Tungwah Plague Hospital in the Cattle dépôt by Government orders to Laichikok Hospital, left that hospital of his own accord, came through Kowloon across in one of the Chinese ferries, wandered through the City of Victoria back to the Cattle dépôt hospital, where he died twenty-four hours after.

The letter written by Dr. Molyneux, dated July 12th, on the condition of the Laichikok graveyard and its dangers was, in every particular, correct. The show graves of fairly decent depth, described by the medical officers who reported at the request of Government on the 8th of July, remained empty, although other interments had been made in the graveyard only a few inches deep. On July 17th Mr. Francis, the President of the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board, and myself visited the Laichikok graveyard and confirmed Dr. Moly-

neux's statements in every particular; the show graves remained unfilled though still more interments had taken place. The heap of lime remained in *statu quo* and practically none had been used in the graves.

Later on Surgeons Meadon and Bearblock, who were inspecting all junks and sampans coming into Hongkong, discovered the lime, that had been taken over to Laichikok Hospital for show purposes, being exported back to Hongkong.

For these reasons, which are facts which cannot be disputed, should deportation be considered necessary. It should at least be nowhere except to Canton, and not allowed to any place in the immediate neighbourhood of the colony.

As for the Sanitary Board, now that the scare is over it seems fast relapsing into the "do nothing" principle until the unofficial members get all they demand, constituting themselves the public representatives and being in reality only that of a very small portion of the public, and the necessity of its reform in some way is fully demonstrated. As a compulsory member of the Board words are insufficient to express my disgust at, in any way, being a part of it.

As regards a Municipal Council I have no belief in the possibility of such an institution. The community is too small and the conflicting interests of its members too great. To give a forcible illustration of this being a fact look at the directors of the many companies in the colony. Is there a single company in this colony whose directors have not been held up to execration in letters to the papers and in articles in the papers, being accused of subordinating the interests of the shareholders to their own interests, of appropriating emoluments when there were no dividends, &c.? I would like to see a list of representative men of position, who think they have the confidence of the public, who would consent to become members, or whose firm would consent to their time being given for such a purpose in these days of high pressure, frequent telegraph instructions coming every hour in the twenty-four, and with mails coming in and going out daily.

Such an institution is recognized as a necessity in Shanghai and for the interest of all concerned in the Settlement, but the chosen few would in many cases be glad to get out of it if they could.

* * * * *

I leave the colony for a time with regret, having made very many kind friends—both official and unofficial—and having spent many happy years in it. The only thing I do not regret leaving is the Sanitary Board as a body, and I hope before I return there will be some improvement as to the individual members. When away from the Sanitary Board or one meets them at more festive boards I have always found them kind and pleasant companions.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

The following despatches with reference to the military contribution and barrack accommodation for the garrison at Hongkong, were laid before the Legislative Council on Friday.—

(COLONIAL SECRETARY TO SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.)

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Hongkong, 2nd August, 1895.

Sir,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to transmit to you, for the consideration of yourself and your colleagues in the Legislative Council, a copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies in regard to the military contribution to be paid by Hongkong towards the support of the Imperial garrison.

You will learn from this despatch that Her Majesty's Government has decided to fix this contribution in future at a certain proportion, viz., 17½ per cent. of revenue of the colony exclusive of the proceeds of land sales or premia on leases.

The effect of this will be, so far as the year 1895 is concerned, that the contribution will be \$353,000 there or thereabouts instead of \$384,000 as provided in the Appropriation Ordinance.

Lord Ripon suggests that a permanent Ordinance should be passed appropriating 17½ per cent. of the Colonial revenue to the use of the Imperial Government as a military contribution, thus removing from the arena of public debate a question which in the past has given rise to some vexation and irritation.

His Excellency fully concurs in this suggestion and trusts that it will recommend itself unanimously to the unofficial members of Council.

I am also to forward to you for your consideration a copy of a further despatch from Lord Ripon enclosing an amended schedule of "Barrack Services" required in the colony in consequence of the increased garrison stationed here.

It will be observed that the expenditure on this account will be divided in the proportion of two-thirds to the Imperial and one-third to the Colonial Government, and that the expenditure will be spread over a period of ten years.

The contribution from the colony for 1895 will be \$25,000, and the Governor has been instructed to take a vote for that amount at an early date. These works will doubtless involve a very large expenditure in the colony, which will directly benefit a large number of contractors and many members of the labouring classes, and this expenditure will also indirectly benefit the revenue of the colony.

I am to call your special attention to paragraphs 2 and 3 of this despatch and to enclose at the same time in elucidation thereof a copy of the Secretary of State's Circular Despatch of the 30th December last.

His Excellency the Governor proposes to call a meeting of the Legislative Council about the middle of this month in order to pass the Ordinance and to take the vote referred to in this letter, and he confidently anticipates that you and the unofficial members will agree to these measures, and will support the Imperial Government generally in a matter which is of the greatest importance from an Imperial as well as a Colonial point of view.

I shall be obliged if after a full consideration of these documents you will announce to me for His Excellency's information the conclusions at which you have arrived.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,

Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable C. P. Chater, Senior Unofficial Member, Legislative Council.

(SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE GOVERNOR.)

Downing Street,

27th June, 1895.

Sir,—With reference to the last paragraph of my despatch No. 75 of 29th March last relative to the military contribution, I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's Government, although hitherto adhering to the principle that the contribution, whatever its amount, should be fixed for the time being in sterling, have never lost sight of the fact that it could not, consistently with the efficient administration of civil affairs, exceed a certain percentage of revenue, and that if at any time through a diminution of receipts or a fall in the exchange value of silver, the percentage assumed undue proportions, then a case for the revision of the sterling demand would arise; but as a matter of fact during the five years 1890-1894, the average military contribution of Hongkong has fallen considerably short of what the Home Government in 1890 considered a reasonable proportion of the revenue, namely, one of between 17 and 18 per cent., and even in 1894 it barely reached 17 per cent. As regards the current year, however, owing to the continued low rate of exchange, the contribution if continued at the present rate of \$40,000 would amount to nearly 20 per cent. of the revenue.

2.—After careful consideration Her Majesty's Government have arrived at the conclusion to fix the contribution in future at a certain proportion, viz., 17½ per cent. of the revenue of the colony. This appears to offer a basis of settlement which is the most likely to be acceptable to all parties, and which can be adopted without an undue sacrifice of the claims of the taxpayers of this country.

3.—The expedient of fixing a proportion of revenue as the amount of the contribution will, I hope, prevent any further feeling of uncertainty and dissatisfaction, and will safeguard the rights of the Home Government as effectually as the expedient of fixing the amount for some years ahead, which was that adopted in my predecessor's despatch No. 8 of 20th January, 1890. In adopting the decision above indicated Her Majesty's Government have been largely influenced by the consideration that so long as the contribution is fixed in sterling the continued uncertainty in the matter of exchange

is calculated to cause a greater dislocation in the finances of the colony than would be caused to the Imperial finances if the contribution is fixed in dollars.

4.—It is to be understood that the revenue on which the percentage will be taken shall include the gross receipts from all sources which are now brought into account as revenue, with one exception, viz., the proceeds of land sales, or premia on leases, which are not strictly revenue but the proceeds of the sale of capital assets. The revenue for 1895, less premia on leases, is estimated at \$2,018,526, so that a contribution of 17½ per cent. would amount to \$353,242; and I have now to authorise you to limit the payments for this year to that amount in lieu of the maximum amount (\$384,000) provided in the Appropriation Ordinance.

5.—When the actual revenue of 1895 is known, should it be found that there was an excess of receipts over the estimate, a further payment of 17½ per cent. of such excess can be made. If, on the other hand, the revenue should have fallen short of the estimate the over-payment can be adjusted by deducting 17½ per cent. of the deficit from the first instalment of next year's contribution. A similar course can be followed in each succeeding year.

6.—It would probably be agreeable to all parties, if a permanent Ordinance were passed appropriating a percentage of 17½ per cent. of the Colonial revenues to the use of the Imperial Government as a military contribution, thus removing what has been a much vexed question from the arena of annual debate.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

RIPON.

Governor Sir W. Robinson, K.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.,

(SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE GOVERNOR.)

Downing Street,

3rd April, 1895.

Sir,—With reference to my despatch No. 162 of 5th October last, I have the honour to transmit to you the enclosed amended schedule of Barrack services required at Hongkong, together with an extract from a letter from the War Office to the Treasury, explaining the necessity of adding the provision of a new hospital to the list of services previously put forward.

2.—It is proposed that the execution of these works should be spread over ten years beginning with the current year, and that the cost of the works should be provided in the following manner, viz., that the colony should, in accordance with my Circular despatch of 30th December last, devote the value of any military lands and buildings that may now be surrendered by the War Department, so far as it will extend, in reduction of the gross cost of the scheme, including the cost of any new sites that may be required, and that the remainder of the cost should be divided in the proportion of two-thirds to the Imperial Government and one-third to the Colonial Government, that being about the proportion in which the cost of the new fortifications of Hongkong were divided between the two Governments.

3.—This proposal, which is, in my opinion, fair and reasonable, is a special arrangement made in view of the large expenditure involved in providing the necessary barrack accommodation for the increased garrison, and the fact that in this case the cost of the provision of new sites is included in the total charge to be divided between the Imperial and Colonial Governments, instead of being wholly charged to the colony in accordance with paragraph 11 of my circular of 30th December last, must not be regarded as a precedent applicable in future cases.

4.—It is intended to provide £5,000 in the army estimates for 1895-6 towards the expenditure incurred on these works during this year, and I have to request you to bring the matter before the Legislative Council at an early date, and to propose a supplementary vote of say \$25,000 to cover the colonial share of this year's expenditure.

5.—The question of the execution of services to the value to be paid for by the colony, i.e., one-third of the net cost, as referred to in paragraphs 15-17 of the enclosed letter, is a detail which I will leave to you to arrange in consultation with the General Officer Commanding the Troops.

6.—You will be given an opportunity of criticizing the plans and estimates of all the new buildings as you will have learned from the letter

to the General Officer Commanding, a copy of which accompanied my despatch No. 162 of 5th October last, and if you are unable to come to an agreement with the General upon any point, I have to request you to refer the question to me, as the General Officer Commanding has been instructed to refer such points to the War Office, so that I may be in a position to come to an agreement with the Secretary of State for War upon such points of difference.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant.

RIPON.
Governor Sir W. Robinson, K.C.M.G., &c., &c.

ESTIMATE FOR BARRACK WORKS FOR ACCOMMODATING INCREASED GARRISON AND FOR SOME OTHER URGENT SERVICES.

Service.	Esti- mate.	Esti- mate.	Order of pre- cedence.
Barracks for Hongkong Regiment at Kowloon, exclusive of European officers' quarters ...	65,700	414,947	In hand.
Hospital to replace existing hospital ship <i>Meanes</i> ...	37,200	234,947	1
Hospital for Asiatics, Kowloon ...	11,000	69,474	2
Barracks at Kowloon for 2 officers, 134 men, Europeans ...	16,000	101,053	3
Barracks for Royal Artillery at Lyemoon ...	8,850	55,895	Com- pleted.
Purchase of Lazaretto ...	3,150	19,895	Com- pleted.
Barracks for Royal Artillery at Stonecutters' Island ...	8,000	50,526	In hand.
Quarters for increased number of warrant officers (3) ...	2,300	14,526	4
Quarters for increased number of staff-sergeants, sergeants and married men (36) ...	21,600	136,421	5 for one half and 8 for the 2nd half.
Quarters for Quarter-master, Infantry ...	1,500	9,474	9
Increase of Royal Engineers sergeants' mess ...	1,500	9,474	10
Sergeants' mess and recreation room, Victoria Barracks ...	2,000	12,631	11
Gymnasium for European troops ...	2,500	15,789	12
Bathing pond ...	1,700	10,737	13
Alterations to F block, Queen's Road barracks, for Chinese submarine miners ...	200	1,263	6
Alterations for library, school, &c., and to Royal Engineers' workshop ...	450	2,842	Partly com- pleted.
Barracks for 1 Company Asiatic Artillery and officers' quarters ...	10,000	63,158	7
Training the Albany Nullah ...	2,400	15,158	14
	196,050	1,238,210	
Add 1/10th * contingencies	15,885	100,326	
Total ...	211,935	1,338,536	

* Not increased on account of the hospital.

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER FROM THE WAR OFFICE TO THE TREASURY, HONGKONG 2/4690, DATED 20th DECEMBER, 1894.

* * * * *

2.—The Medical Authorities at the station have recently made strong representations in the matter, contending that the time has now come when diseases can no longer be properly treated in such a structure, especially at sea, and in such a climate as that of Hongkong, where the temperature and other conditions are so variable.

3.—It is also necessary that separate wards should be provided for the treatment of infectious diseases, and for the itch, as well as for the reception of lunatics.

4.—At present, cases of small-pox, scarlet fever, and diphtheria have to be treated as best they can, no official accommodation having been provided for the isolation of patients suffering from these diseases.

5.—The provision of a hospital on shore—to which special allusion is made in the 10th paragraph of the War Office letter before quoted—has therefore now become a service of pressing urgency, and Mr. Secretary Campbell-Bannerman finds it necessary to add this to the list previously put forward.

6.—Mr. Campbell-Bannerman—having regard to the subsequent correspondence—has had a fresh list prepared, showing the order of pre-

dence which should be attached to the services. The list includes the hospital.

* * * * *

15.—Of the amount to be found by the colony it must be remembered that about 1/6th, i.e., about £1,177 annually, will be for payment in sterling for stores which will probably be necessary to send out from England.

16.—In regard to the mode of execution Mr. Secretary Campbell-Bannerman would suggest that the best course would be for the colony to provide funds for specific services to the amounts payable.

17.—The services to be either executed by the War Department on behalf of the colony, or by the colony to the satisfaction of the representative of the Secretary of State for War.

* * * * *

SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE GOVERNOR,
Downing Street,
30th December, 1894.

Sir,—From correspondence which has taken place respecting colonial military lands and buildings—that is to say, lands the fee simple of which is vested in the Crown represented by the Colonial Government but of which the War Department has a right of perpetual user for purposes of defence and the buildings on such lands, in certain colonies—since my predecessor's circular despatch of the 9th of June, 1890, it appears that the exact meaning of the proposals enclosed in the circular as to the mode of dealing with such lands when no longer required for military purposes has not been clearly understood.

2.—Her Majesty's Government have carefully reconsidered the question and have decided to adhere to the proposals adopted by their predecessors and communicated to the Colonial Governments in Lord Knutsford's Circular despatch, and with the view of removing any misunderstanding they have thought it desirable to formulate their proposals in the following terms, viz.:—

"The free surrender to the colony of all Colonial military lands and buildings no longer required by Her Majesty's Government on the engagement by the colony that, in the event of lands and buildings being required, then or in the future for the defence of the colony, the colony shall provide an equivalent for the lands and buildings so surrendered, towards the satisfaction of the above-mentioned requirements, and to that intent the value of the land and buildings surrendered shall be ascertained and recorded, and any lands and buildings provided out of that value shall be held by Her Majesty's Government on the same tenure as those surrendered."

3.—This proposal is based upon the assumption that the Colonial military lands in question constitute a permanent defence fund of the colony, the integrity of which ought to be preserved, in kind or value, even though the original lands themselves may be diverted to civil purposes. Accordingly, whenever such lands which have been set apart for defensive purposes have, from change of circumstances, or from an altered scheme of defence, or from any other reason, ceased to answer the purposes for which they were set apart, and are in consequence surrendered by the military authorities, their value should be treated as forming a capital applicable, either immediately or from time to time, so far as it will extend, to providing other lands or buildings which may be required in the colony for such purposes.

4.—Effect would be given to the above proposal in the following manner:—

If the Colonial Government should not desire to retain the lands and buildings to be surrendered, they will be sold in the open market, and the proceeds paid into the Colonial Treasury, when the amount would be entered in a special account to the debit of the Colonial Government. In the event of any new lands or buildings being immediately required for the defensive purposes of the colony the amount of the above-mentioned proceeds, or a sufficient portion of them, would be paid out as required for the purchase of the new sites, and for the construction of the new buildings; the amounts so paid out being entered in the special account to the credit of the Colonial Government. Should the

new sites, instead of being purchased from private owners, be located on Crown lands in the possession of the Colonial Government the necessary lands would be given over to the military authorities, and credit taken in the special accounts for the market value of the fee simple of the Crown lands so given over.

5.—Should new lands or buildings not be immediately required for defensive purposes, the above-mentioned proceeds would stand in the special account to the debit of the Colonial Government to be paid out in the same way in the event of funds being ever required in the future for providing lands or buildings for defensive purposes.

6.—Whenever the colony desires to retain any lands which the military authorities give up, such lands, instead of being offered for sale, would be valued, and the market value of their fee simple at date of surrender would be entered in the special account to debit of the Colonial Government, together with the fair selling value at that date of any buildings which might be upon the land. In the event of the surrender of any buildings now existing which in the past were erected at colonial cost it would only be necessary to record the value of the site. The amounts so entered would be paid out as required for the provision of the lands or buildings for the defensive purposes of the colony, and the amounts, as in the case of sale, credited to the Colonial Government, the like credit being given in the event of new sites being provided on Crown lands. Should no new lands or buildings be immediately required the amounts entered would remain to the debit of the Colonial Government until such time, if ever, as lands or buildings should become necessary for defensive purposes.

7.—Valuation of land or buildings, when required under the circumstances above-mentioned, should be made by the Colonial and military authorities conjointly, or, in the event of their disagreeing, by an independent and competent surveyor, to be chosen by agreement between the Home and Colonial Governments, whose report should be final. The cost of employing such surveyor would be borne by the Colonial Government, but should be placed to its credit in the special account.

8.—Any lands and buildings provided hereafter for defensive purposes under this arrangement, including land required for rifle ranges or other purposes conducing to the efficiency of the garrison, would be occupied by the military upon a right of perpetual user only, the fee simple of the land remaining in the Crown represented by the Colonial Government. In the event of any such lands being at any time surrendered by the military authorities they would be dealt with in the manner above detailed.

9.—Before any buildings are commenced the cost of which will be chargeable to the special account, the Governor will be informed of the nature and estimated cost of the proposed buildings in order that any observations that he may wish to offer upon them may be duly considered by Her Majesty's Government.

10.—It is not proposed to re-open any transactions already closed and lands which have already passed out of military occupation will remain the property of the colony, subject of course to any conditions which may have been attached to them at the time when they came into the possession of the Colonial Government.

11.—The foregoing proposal relates solely to the terms on which colonial military lands in the hands of the War Department should be surrendered to a Colonial Government. It does not affect the obligation of a colony to provide other lands required within its borders for military purposes, whether under some special agreement, or under the general obligation that rests on every colony to contribute, according to its means, towards its own defence. Whatever the circumstances of a colony may be it is obviously within its means to maintain its colonial military lands intact, in money or kind, for defensive purposes.

12.—I request that you will lay this despatch before the Legislative Council and convey to them my earnest hope that the proposals of Her Majesty's Government will be accepted as a fair and equitable solution to the advantage alike of the mother country and of the colony of a question which has in some colonies been the sub-

ject of considerable and prolonged controversy.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant.

RIPON.
The Officer Administering the Government of Hongkong.

THE ASSESSMENT.

The Acting Assessor's report on the Assessment for 1895-96 was laid before the Legislative Council on Friday. It is as follows:—

Assessor's Office,
8th June, 1895.

Sir,—I have the honour to submit my report on the Assessment for the ensuing year 1895-96.

2.—By order of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the existing valuation of the colony has been adopted for the ensuing year.

3.—Since taking over the duties of office as Acting Assessor in June last, interim valuations have been made by me as follows:—

From 1st July, 1894, to 30th April, 1895.

IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA.

42 new tenements, rateable value.....	\$38,510
5 improved tenements, rateable value	\$4,290
Replacing assessments.....	3,280
	1,010
	\$39,520
7 assessments cancelled, tenements removed	1,780
Increase in city of Victoria.....	\$37,740

IN THE REST OF THE COLONY.

54 new tenements, rateable value.....	\$25,947
1 improved tenement, rateable value \$5,000	
Replacing assessments	3,600
	1,400
	\$65,087
61 assessments cancelled, tenements removed	1,844
Total increase from interim assessments	\$63,243

4.—The rateable value of the property in the enclosed area of Taipingshan resumed by the Government under Ordinance 8 of 1894 amounted to \$58,805, including the old Taipingshan Police Station which was leased at an annual rent of \$360, and excluding six tenements not rated for reason of occupancy, viz., free school and temples.

5.—For the ensuing year therefore the rateable value of property in the enclosed area of Taipingshan amounting to \$58,805 has been omitted from the valuation list of tenements in the city of Victoria.

6.—By including interim valuations and increasing the rateable value of several tenements somewhat under assessed, the amount of valuation for the city of Victoria for the new year 1895-96 is \$3,160,874 as against \$3,179,999 for present year, or a decrease of 0.6 per cent.

7.—The hill district, Hongkong villages, and Kowloon peninsula show an increase as compared with the preceding year, arising from new tenements having been rated for the first time, and aggregating an increase of \$25,503 or 5.02 per cent.

8.—I attach a tabular statement giving a comparison of the valuations for 1894-95 and 1895-96 for the whole of the colony.

9.—The number of tenements reported vacant, and inspected under section 35 of the Rating Ordinance has averaged 250 monthly, a number somewhat in excess of any corresponding month in the preceding year. The above number, however, does not include some 60 tenements outside the enclosed area of Taipingshan which were closed during the plague and unfit for human habitation, and at this date remain unoccupied.

10.—The result of the valuation for the new year has, I venture to conclude, proved satisfactory when taking into consideration that an extensive building area (Taipingshan) representing 417 tenements has been exempted.

The gain in rateable value of the colony has been \$6,378 for the ensuing year or 0.17 per cent.

11.—There has been no change in the staff. Mr. Chan Pui and Mr. Ip Yuk Pui have continued to discharge their duties satisfactorily.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

CHAS. C. MALSCH,
Acting Assessor.

The Honourable A. M. Thomson, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

THE COLONY OF HONGKONG.		Valuation In- Locality	1894-95.	1895-96.	crease.	crease.	De-
			\$	\$	\$	\$	
The City of Victoria	3,179,999	3,160,874	19,125			
Hongkong Villages and Hill District	216,087	238,364	21,877			
Kowloon Peninsula	291,308	295,434	4,126			
	\$3,688,394	3,694,672	25,503	19,125			
Deduct Decrease			\$ 19,125				
Total Increase		\$ 6,378	0.17 per cent.				

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon. Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presided, and there were also present Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings (Acting Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. J. A. Lawson (Acting Colonial Surgeon), Dr. Westcott (Acting Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

MORE WELLS CLOSED.

On the motion of the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police, seconded by the Acting Colonial Surgeon, it was resolved to order the closing within seven days of eighteen wells which were likely to prove injurious to health.

NO EPIDEMIC AT AMOY.

The following letter from H.M. Consul at Amoy to the Colonial Secretary was read:—“H M. Consulate, Amoy, 2nd August, 1895. Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your dispatch No. 1,578 of the 30th ultimo, and in reply to state that I have communicated it to Dr. McDougall, the medical officer of this port, who assures me that though (as might be expected) there are a few cases here of choleraic diarrhoea among the refugees from Formosa, there is certainly no epidemic of cholera in Amoy or neighbourhood. Dr. McDougall adds: ‘It is a great pity such false and misleading reports about the health in this place should periodically appear in the Hongkong papers!’” [The misleading reports referred to by Dr. McDougall did not appear in the *Daily Press*.]

AN EIGHT YEAR OLD REPORT.

Correspondence having reference to the water supply of the city eight years ago and also to the condition of wells was placed upon the table.

The following minutes were appended:—

The Acting Colonial Surgeon—A lot of work has been done here, but the result must be poor, seeing that so many wells have been ordered to be closed during the last month. The bad wells appear to have been missed.

The Director of Public Works—I am afraid the condition of a well eight years ago is not of much assistance at the present. The altering of the house numbers when the list was prepared may account for the apparent and not real errors.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

For the week ended 3rd August the death rate was 20.1 per 1,000 per annum as against 18.3 per 1,000 per annum for the corresponding week last year. The feature of most importance in the return was the death recorded from bubonic plague. For the week ended 10th August the death rate was 25 per 1,000 per annum as compared with 19.8 for the corresponding week last year. The features of most importance were the high death rate recorded amongst the boat population at Kowloon and Shaukiwan. This was accounted for by a larger number of vessels from other places lying there during typhoon time.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned until Thursday week.

We (*Mercury*) regret to hear of the death of Mr. T. Tolliday, Chief Examiner of the I.M. Customs, which occurred at Ningpo on the 9th inst. Mr. Tolliday was a very old member of the service, having joined in June, 1862, just after the conclusion of the China war. He served during that campaign with the British forces and was rewarded with the British war medal and clasp for the China war—Peking and Taku. He reached the rank of Chief Examiner in April, 1876, and having been stationed for a number of years in Shanghai in that position was well and most favourably known. He leaves many friends, who will deplore his loss.

SUPREME COURT.

19th August.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR FIELDING CLARKE
(CHIEF JUSTICE.)

DISCHARGED BY PROCLAMATION.

The Attorney-General (Hon. W. Meigh Goodman) mentioned the case of A. de Souza, who was charged with uttering counterfeit coin. No information had been filed and he proposed that the man be discharged by proclamation.

His Lordship consented and Souza was discharged.

EXEMPLARY PUNISHMENT.

Leung Sze Man and Chan Tak were charged with bringing a widow, 22 years of age, into the colony for the purpose of prostitution. The two prisoners, together with Ko Ng and U Sam, were also indicted for harbouring the girl for the purpose of prostitution.

The prisoners pleaded not guilty.

The Attorney-General (Hon. W. M. Goodman) prosecuted, and Mr. D. McNeill (instructed by Mr. Reece) defended the first prisoner.

The following were empanelled as jurors—Messrs. R. C. Edwards, J. Allan, F. J. R. Schwarzkopf, R. E. Kozhevnikov, H. S. Cooke, C. D. Danenberg, and Chow Dart Tong.

The Attorney-General said the prisoners were indicted under an Ordinance passed in 1889 for the protection of women and children. It was alleged that the first two prisoners brought the girl into the colony for the purpose of prostitution, and that the four of them harboured her with intention to sell her as a prostitute. She was about 22 years of age and lived at a village near Hoihow, Hainan, and she was a widow. The second defendant, a woman, went and saw her and suggested that as she was in a state of poverty she had better go to Hongkong, where she could get a husband. She consented to go and the first two prisoners brought her here and took her to 82, Hollywood Road. The room in which she was was rented by the fourth defendant and the third defendant took charge of her. She was afterwards taken to a house in Wellington Street. At both places she was shown, as any animals of a lower grade might be, for the purpose of being sold. She was told that she was too ugly to be the wife of anybody and that she must become a prostitute. An offer was made for her, but the sum was not considered sufficient. Subsequently the police received information and they arrested the whole of the defendants. The girl was detained in the house from the 7th to the 17th July.

While the evidence was being given the fourth prisoner was discharged by direction of his Lordship, as there was no evidence against him.

Mr. McNeill submitted that no intent had been shown on the part of the first prisoner.

The jury found the first prisoner not guilty, and he was discharged. The second prisoner was found guilty on both counts and she was sent to gaol for eighteen months. The third prisoner was also found guilty and he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

FIRE INQUIRY.

At the Police Court on Friday the Hon. H. E. Wodehouse resumed the inquiry into the circumstances attending the recent fire at No. 70, Jervois Street.

Mr. Gedge was present on behalf of the Hamburg Bremen Insurance Co.

Mr. Charles Jesumann, insurance clerk at Messrs. Carlowitz & Co., was the first witness and in answer to questions put to him by his Worship he said he knew the premises in question. They were insured for \$12,600 altogether. The policy expires in about three or four months. He inspected the premises at the time they were insured. The shop contained generally cheap cotton goods and piece goods. He had inspected the premises since—about four months ago—and according to his opinion the goods in the shop then corresponded fairly with those at the time of the insurance. In a business of this kind the goods necessarily varied from time to time, but there would never be such a difference as \$1,000. The permanent stock would be worth about \$10,000. In insuring the property they usually took an average of the permanent and floating stock; the policy read

[August 21, 1895.]

"stock in trade" and consequently sometimes the goods were of less value than the insurance policy, and sometimes a little more. They determined the valuation by the general nature of the business done. He had inspected the premises since the fire, but found nothing suspicious at the time. The stock in the shop was not of the same value as at the time when it was insured; in his opinion it was much less. The stock at the time he inspected it prior to the insurance was worth about \$10,000 and it was now worth about \$7,000 or \$8,000. He renewed the policy in June, 1895, but on this occasion there was no inspection of the premises. The property was insured for three years, but the policy was renewed yearly. In answer to his Worship as to whether he considered the diminution of the stock was a suspicious circumstance, witness said he asked at the time what was the value of the stock in the shop and was informed that it was worth \$9,000. The accuracy of that statement could be ascertained at any time. He did not find anything wrong with the fittings, which were insured for \$2,000. The clothes were insured for \$600 and were kept in Chinese boxes; these being put in different parts of the house. He did not inspect the cloths particularly when he insured them but made only a general inspection. No claim whatever had been made so far with regard to the clothes boxes, and in that case it would be easy to make an estimate of the full value of the clothes remaining. He could only find three boxes on the premises, and these were empty. The first floor of the shop was not destroyed by the fire. In answer to his Worship witness said if a house was insured it was incumbent on the owner to save as much stock as possible before the fire became too fierce. He examined the premises with a view to ascertaining the origin of the fire, but could find no traces. He did not find anything suspicious until after the fire, and the clothes were the only thing that he regarded as suspicious. Altogether the clothes were insured for \$600.

The master of the shop was then called and examined by his Worship. He said he went to the insurance office and informed them that he had piece goods worth \$10,000, referring generally to the contents of the shop. On the first floor there was a centre place for goods not so valuable and behind this was a box containing more valuable piece goods, which at times contained stock of the value of a thousand dollars and sometimes more. At the time of the fire it contained a thousand dollars worth of goods. He had not been in the shop since the fire.

Mr Gedge—I should like to ask some questions with regard to the clothes. I suggest that your Worship should ask whether the clothes belonged to the fokies; of course, we don't insure fokies' clothing, we only insure his own.

The witness replied that he was not in the shop on the night of the fire and did not know who was in the shop.

Mr. Gedge wished to put another question, but his Worship refused to allow him to examine the witness further.

The assistant accountant at the shop was then called and said he was in charge of the shop on the night of the fire. Questioned as to the clothes he said he had five boxes himself in the third room on the top floor, and these were included in the boxes which were insured. He valued his own clothes at \$500. The boxes were insured for \$2,100.—(Mr. Gedge mentioned that the first witness made a mistake; he should have stated that he insured the clothes for \$2,100 and the furniture and fittings for \$800).—The boxes had not been removed since the fire.

Mr. Gedge—Will your Worship ask him—or allow me to—about the proprietor's clothing.

His Worship—You may ask him.

The witness, in answer to the question, said the last witness had one trunk and one box of clothes in the shop. Witness himself had clothing to the value of \$500, but that which he was wearing was only worth about \$6.

This concluded the evidence and his Worship in closing the enquiry said—I should like to say a word or two with regard to the view I entertain of the Fire Inquiry Ordinance. I dare say it will have been noticed more than once that I entertain considerable doubt of the propriety of introducing examination of witnesses with regard to the contents of shops at the time of fire unless such questions are put by myself. The chief reason that I have for

being careful on that point is that while it frequently happens that the state of the contents of the shop is a very pertinent fact of material importance when suspicious circumstances exist, the main object of the inquiry is to ascertain the cause of fire; and unless therefore there are suspicious circumstances I am doubtful how far it is proper to use this Ordinance as a handle on behalf of the insurance companies to investigate their claims and to find out through these inquiries what they are to pay and what they are not. It seems to me rather to be diverting the Ordinance to uses not intended, and to be driving the inquiry into other channels quite apart from the main intention of the Ordinance, which is to inquire into the cause of fire. Therefore when at times I decline to admit the evidence, it is always with that feeling in mind. At these inquiries I must decline to allow it to be considered a right on the part of anybody representing the insurance companies or anybody else to start on their own motion an inquiry of this kind. The conduct of the inquiry must be left to the Magistrate, and he must be left to decide what evidence is admissible and what is not. The other day I had the greatest difficulty in getting this view adopted; in fact, so pertinaciously was the opposite argument forced upon me as almost to amount to disrespect of the Court. I am unwilling to consider that any disrespect was intended; I think it was rather exuberance of zeal and not from any other reason. But I hope it will be seen that if the inquiry is left to the Magistrate it will be fully and carefully carried out; and to allow any interested party to start an examination on his own account is to confuse the issue and to raise points that may very likely be found improper to be introduced at all. At any time when I have said "I will decline to hear such evidence" I merely say that I decline at that point, as at that point it has not been shown to be relevant. It was urged the other day that the point rose in cross-examination; but cross-examination must be on evidence that has been previously given and cannot be carried out on points not yet raised during the inquiry. The evidence that has been taken to-day with regard to the property has, I think, satisfactorily disposed of the points connected with the state of the property at the time of the fire to the extent of establishing certain facts, but unless they had originated with the Magistrate there is no knowing to what lengths the inquiry might have extended and what other side issues might have been raised. The Ordinance allows people interested to examine witnesses with the permission of the Magistrate. I hope therefore that when I refuse to allow certain evidence to be given in that way it will be understood it is not that I object to the inquiry being made complete but that I merely wish to conduct it on proper lines, from point to point up to the final issue. The inquiry is now closed and the premises released from supervision.

Mr. Gedge—Your Worship will perhaps allow me to make a few remarks on what you said just now as to my conduct in addressing your Worship the other day. You said that my arguments were forced upon you to such an extent as nearly amounted to disrespect. I would point out to your Worship that it matters nothing to me personally whether your Worship heard that evidence or not; I am instructed by my clients and I am paid to come here and make the request, and I submit that I did request, with all respect, that your Worship would allow the evidence. You refused to allow it, and I was prepared for that refusal before I came, and I was instructed that if you did refuse I was to press, with all respect, arguments intended to change your opinion. I am sorry your Worship should think there was any disrespect; I did not intend it at all, and if there was, as you said, any exuberance of zeal, it was zeal for the insurance company which I represent in order to prevent fraud and protect the general public.

His Worship—The enquiry is closed, as I have already said, and the premises are released.

It is reported in native official circles at Shanghai, says the *N. C. Daily News*, that an expectant *chehsien* of Hupeh, name Husang Chien-p'an, has been appointed by the Wuchang high authorities to become provisional manager of the proposed Railway for the province of Hupeh, and that a Railway Bureau will soon be established either at Hanyang or Hankow.

THE CUSTOMS SEIZURE IN BRITISH WATERS.

A SUSPICIOUS DEATH.

At the Magistracy on Wednesday Hon. H. E. Wodehouse opened an enquiry respecting the death of Lam Wa Po.

P.C. Lam Chi said—At 11 a.m. on the 5th inst. I found the body of the deceased floating in the harbour at Aberdeen. I made a report to the inspector and returned with him and put off in a boat and recovered the body, which was that of a Chinese male adult, and was dressed in a blue jacket, red waistband, and blue trousers. The number 43 was in Chinese characters on the jacket. I took the body, which appeared to have been dead some time, to the mortuary.

Lam Fuk Shan said—I am a boatman residing at Capsuimun. I recognise the deceased as my nephew, and he was 24 years of age. He was a boatman employed in the Chinese Customs and was stationed at Capsuimun. I last saw him alive at 10 a.m. on 1st inst. I was at the time on shore. I saw him fall from a sampan into the water, and I did not see him again.

Charles Halberg stated—I am tidewaiter in the Chinese Customs. On the 1st August, at 10.50 a.m., I was in a Customs gig with four Chinese oarsmen. We were in the act of boarding the steam launch *Hungma*, which was at the time lying off Capsuimun Point signal station. We were laying on our oars waiting for the launch to approach. I ordered one of the men to stand by with his boat hook. His name was Lam Po, the deceased. He was looking away from the steam launch and I called his attention to its approach. He paid no attention and as the launch came up it touched the boat hook and the man fell overboard. He was not seen again. At the time the occurrence took place he was holding the boat hook in a more or less vertical position in front of him. The top end of the launch caught the boat hook and jerked the man into the water. He disappeared immediately. We were close to the land at the time.

Dr. Cantlie said—On the 5th August at 6 p.m. I held a *post mortem* examination on the body of the deceased, which was in an advanced state of decomposition. There was a large flesh wound on the outer side of the left leg, and his person was mutilated by an incision with a sharp instrument. There were no other injuries. The wound on the leg appeared to have been an enlargement of an old wound. The cause of death was shock combined with hemorrhage. The lungs were pulpy with decomposition. The appearances were opposed to the idea of drowning. The amputation appeared to have been made during life. I do not think the boat hook could have caused it, but it might have caused the wound in the leg. The amputation was a perfectly clean cut, and it is absolutely certain it was done intentionally, but it is difficult to say whether it was done before or after death. The idea presented to my mind was that the man had been killed first and his body afterwards thrown into the water. I am of opinion that both wounds were inflicted before death. The upper edge of the wound in the leg was clean cut; the lower part was jagged. The wound was ten inches long by four and a half inches wide. It laid bare the bone to the extent of one third its length from the top. In my opinion it was inflicted with an instrument such as a Chinese hatchet. There had been no attempt to dress the wound, which, in my opinion, was inflicted just before death. I am not able to say confidently that death did not take place from drowning. The clothes did not show any signs of having been cut through. It was possible to have put on the clothes after the man was dead. I assume that the man had first been disabled by the wound in the leg.

The clothes found on the deceased were produced, and Dr. Cantlie said they did not look like those he saw on the body of the deceased. It was explained by Inspector Hanson that the clothes had been disinfected with Jeyes' fluid and thoroughly washed and dried, and this accounted for their altered appearance.

The Magistrate—I think the police had better make further inquiries. The evidence at present is very curious indeed.

Dr. Cantlie—May I suggest that you also take Dr. Marques's evidence?

The Magistrate—Why?

Dr. Cantlie—to see what he has got to say. The Magistrate—He was not ordered to make the *post mortem* examination.

Dr. Cantlie—No, but he assisted me.

The Magistrate—I suppose there is no necessity to call him. Will he differ from you at all?

Dr. Cantlie—I do not know; I do not think so.

The Magistrate (to Inspector Bremner)—You were of opinion at first that this man was killed by the opium smugglers?

Inspector Bremner—I thought that was likely, because the body was picked up only two days after the seizure.

The Magistrate—How far is this place away from the spot where the seizure took place?

Inspector Hanson—It is a long way—seven and a half miles.

Inspector Bremner said that the tide had to be taken into account.

The Magistrate—The inquiry is adjourned until Wednesday at ten o'clock.

MR. G. G. BRADY'S FAREWELL CONCERT.

There was a very large audience at Mr. Brady's farewell concert at the Theatre Royal on Saturday evening, and the funds of the Kowloon Soldiers' and Sailors' Institute, on behalf of which the entertainment was given, should benefit very materially. Both the pit and the circle were full and the audience was most enthusiastic in its reception of Mr. Brady when he appeared. The programme opened with a selection by the Band of the Rifle Brigade, from "Il Trovatore," played in the Rifles' usual excellent style. Mr. E. W. Maitland then sang "Love's Nocturne," for which he was very heartily and deservedly applauded. Mr. Maitland was in exceptionally good voice, in fact we have never heard him sing so well before. The next item was "The Demon King," by Mr. W. E. Crow, who was encored and sang in response "Out on a raft." Mrs. J. D. Humphreys then sang "Il Bacio," of which she gave a very tasteful rendering, and in response to the warm encore she gave "Scenes that are brightest," in which she was equally successful. No. 5 was a recitation by Mr. Brady, and the appearance of the popular amateur *lion comique* was greeted with enthusiastic cheering and hand clapping. When at length he was allowed to make his voice heard Mr. Brady commenced with "Mr. Montpellier's Recitation" and soon had the audience in a broad smile broken at frequent intervals by fits of laughter. He was encored of course, and in response gave Mark Twain's ever popular "European Guides." Mr. M. Alberg then charmed the audience with a finely executed violin solo. Mr. G. P. Lammert was put down for the next song, but as he was suffering from hoarseness his place was taken by Mr. Fritz Lammert, who sang "An Old Love Dream." The first part of the programme was brought to a close by a trio, "Queen of the Night," by Messrs. Crow, Grace, and Sliman. Three weeks ago the same gentlemen sang this piece at the Alice Memorial Hospital Concert at the Mount Austin Hotel, and last Saturday evening's performance suffered rather by comparison. Mr. Sliman's tenor does not seem to carry so well in the City Hall, and seemed hardly strong enough for the bass and baritone, whereas at Mount Austin the parts were balanced perfectly. The difference must be set down to the acoustic properties of the two halls.

The second part opened with a selection from "A Gaiety Girl" by the Band, after which Mr. Grace sang in his usual fine style "Oh, Promise Me." Mrs. Hagen's song "Tell me my heart" was warmly encored, and she was even more successful in "Pierrot," which she sang in response. The latter suited her voice better. Mr. Brady's name was the next on the programme, for another recitation, but he appeared on the stage and said he was "requested by Mr. Brady" to say that as the time was getting late and the audience would not want to sit in the theatre all night in the tropical temperature he requested to be excused and instead would sing an extra song at the end of the programme. With some little demur this arrangement was acquiesced in. Miss Lammert, who never fails to charm her audience, then sang "She wandered down the mountain side," and in response to the very warm encore she received gave "Sunshine and Rain." Mr. Alberg gave another violin solo "Hungarian Dance," which he played with perfect execution and for which he received an encore, giving

another solo in response. Mr. Sliman then sang in good style "Under thy Window," after which Mr. Brady appeared for the final item, a comic song. First he gave "The man who broke the Bank at Monte Carlo," then "You can't remember everything" and, being again recalled, "The Inquest." The enthusiastic applause which followed brought him on to the stage for the fourth time, when he was greeted with cries of "speech, speech," and Mr. Brady, always equal to any demand made upon him, made a speech, short, witty, and to the point, in which he referred to the pleasant friendships he had made in Hongkong, to the regret with which he was leaving the colony, and to his hope that he might have the pleasure of again appearing before a Hongkong audience on some future occasion when passing through. He mentioned that he had been in the colony nineteen months, during which he had appeared before Hongkong audiences a hundred and thirty-seven times, and said that for anything he had done he had been well repaid by the kind applause he had received. Mr. Brady left the stage amid loud and long continued cheering, expressive of the good wishes he carries with him and the regret with which his departure is viewed.

The accompanists were Messrs. Cattaneo, Grindle, and Lammert.

Mention must not be omitted of the excellent arrangement of the stage, Mr. Brady's own work, we believe. It might have been prepared for a fairy scene in a pantomime and the enjoyment of the evening was enhanced by pleasure being afforded to the eye as well as to the ear.

We congratulate Mr. Brady on the entire success of Saturday evening's entertainment and on the great amount of pleasure he has afforded to the community during his too short residence amongst us.

SHIPBUILDING IN THE FAR EAST.

MR. JACK'S REPLY TO THE DISCUSSION.

At a meeting of the members of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong held on Friday evening, Mr. Andrew Johnston, Secretary, read the following letter from Mr. W. C. Jack, of Haiphong, in reply to the discussion on his paper "Shipbuilding in the Far East":

Haiphong, 8th August, 1895.

Dear Mr. Johnston—The criticisms and discussion of my paper on Engineering and Shipbuilding in the Far East have been so light and favourable that it were almost invidious on my part to offer a reply; in fact, I should have preferred that there had been more criticism on the comparative cost of steamers or launches of any description, as it would only have served to elicit facts with regard to our business that are becoming apparent to financial and business men all over the world. Mr. Bailey's remarks on the utterances of an influential personage in the shipping line at home (the Chairman of the P. & O. Co.) have been supplemented quite recently by a director of the China Mutual Steam Navigation Co. (See *London and China Express*, March 8th). Mr. Maitland stated that "Supposing the cost of a steamer to be £50,000 a moderate estimate of the labour would be £12,000. Take the wages on the Clyde at 30/- a week, which is a low estimate, as many workmen receive 7/6 a day, and then take the wages in the East at \$5 a week, which is high being equal to 10/- a week, we find that in this item of £12,000 there would be a saving of two thirds, or an economy of £8,000 in labour alone. Against this certainly there would be the shipping of material such as steel plates, which would cost say £2,400, and then there would be the payment of two or three skilled men specially sent out to superintend, which I will put down at £1,000 to £1,500, making together under £4,000, so that there would still be a saving of £4,000 in favour of building in the East," &c., &c.

I would also refer you to a valuable paper by Mr. H. Kopsch, F.R.G.S., of the Eastern Bimetallic League, which although written from the political economist's point of view, only serves to prove our case up to the hilt.

Referring to the comparative cost tables I would refer Mr. Kinghorn to the trade report in *Engineering*, 28th June, 1895, where the prices of steel ship plates and angles are quoted considerably below my figure, viz., £4 15s. and £4

12s. 6d. respectively, less 2½ per cent. discount, and it will not be astonishing if we see these prices lower still, or at Mr. Johnston's £4 10s. actual rock bottom, ere the tide of affairs turns. I do not entirely agree with the theory that there would be difficulty in procuring skilled labour in sufficient quantity in Hongkong, for as a matter of fact the artisans all round the coast are recruited from this port, being Hongkong or Canton men who have served their times in the local yards and afterwards had to go elsewhere to find employment, whereas had they found work nearer home there is little doubt but that they would have remained. Again, as Mr. Johnston remarks, Chinese boys are very apt and at a certain age pick up their trade very quickly. Concerning stern-wheelers, yes, they can be built and put afloat at less cost than at home; the home builders referred to also make a speciality of this type. I have their tender before me and think Mr. Mitchell would be quite satisfied with the profit even if the difference was split between their price and the cost here. I am thoroughly convinced that the shipbuilding industry on a large scale only wants a start in Hongkong. Chinese merchants are already owners of a considerable amount of shipping property in the shape of tugs and large launches, but have never ventured on ordering cargo steamers from home, contenting themselves with chartering foreign steamers. Let them once see that handy and cheap coasting boats suitable for the rice and native passenger trade can be turned out on the spot, and the chances are that they will soon become shipowners as well as charterers, and we will in a few years see the British flag once more in the ascendant in a British colony. Mr. Winterburn considers a Government subsidy as necessary to progress. What is the low rate of exchange but a subsidy in this case, and we should wait a while if we wait for any other from the Foreign Office; it would be different if the colony was under the fostering care of a Continental power; then subsidies and monopolies would not be wanting. No, rather than ask favours from the Government, ask for a fair share of their work; torpedo boats and catchers could be built as well here as elsewhere, and the fact of our own Government putting Hongkong builders on the Admiralty list would be a valuable mark of confidence in their capabilities, and help to make some return for the military contribution which bears so hard on the colony at the present rate of exchange.

It only remains for me now to return my sincerest thanks to Mr. Cooke for his kind remarks and valuable criticism, to the members of the institution and the press for the enthusiasm with which my humble contribution was received, and I sincerely trust that it may bear fruit in the near future.—W. C. JACK.

THE TYPHOON OF 25-30th JULY.

The following description of the typhoon of last month appears with the meteorological observations in the *Gazette*:

On the 25th July a trough-like slight depression was formed across the China Sea between 17° and 19° lat, as a result of a considerable increase of pressure which had taken place over S. China between the 24th and 25th. Between the 26th and 27th a cyclonic depression, which was perhaps central in 18° 4', 118° at noon on the latter day, may have been formed in the eastern part of the trough; but in the absence of observations from S. Formosa or from vessels in the adjacent waters this is uncertain.

The information for the 27th shows that a rather rapid decrease of pressure was in progress on the S.E. coast of China, winds there being light, chiefly from a S. direction, and the weather fine, hot and dry. At Bolinao the barometer was rising and moderate S.W. and S. winds prevailed accompanied by wet weather. At 3 p.m. on this day we have the following observations:—Amoy 29.64, S.S.E. 3, b; Swatow 29.65, S.S.W. 1, c; Hongkong 29.67, W. 1, c; Bolinao 29.73, S. 2, or. The only vessel reporting bad weather on this day was the ship *Paramita*, which experienced a strong W. gale in 16° 9', 116° 24'. Unfortunately barometric observations were not recorded.

The bark *G. F. Manson* began to feel the effects of the advancing typhoon at midnight of the 27th. The vessel was situated in 18° 57', 114° 18' at this hour when the wind suddenly sprang up and blew with the force of a strong breeze from N.N.W. The barometer read 29.60

(uncorrected) and the mercury was falling fast. The vessel was steering on a N. course, bound for Hongkong, with the wind gradually backing towards W. and increasing steadily in force. When they discovered that the vessel was in the left-hand semicircle they decided to run the vessel as nearly as possible to course, so as to lose no time; but considering that the barometer continued to fall rapidly with the wind increasing in force, this manœuvre was a dangerous one and they barely escaped running into the centre, for at 2 p.m. on the 28th, the vessel being in $20^{\circ} 16'$, $114^{\circ} 14'$, the barometer had fallen to its minimum 29.10 (uncorrected) and the wind was of storm force from W. by S. The ship *Alcedo* was situated a few miles to the E. and S. of Hongkong when at 2 a.m. on the 28th the barometer, 29.71, began to fall rapidly and at the same time the wind, which had been light and variable, suddenly freshened from E.N.E. The weather was squally and threatening and lightning was observed in the E. and S.W. The vessel was on the port tack heading S.E. by E., in the right-hand semicircle, but as they had no sea room this could not be avoided. Sail was taken in as required and at noon in $21^{\circ} 48'$, $114^{\circ} 38'$ she was lying-to under a storm trysail, heading S. and making seven points leeway, the wind being a fierce gale from E.S.E. and the barometer standing at 29.22. Between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. the barometer was at its lowest point, 29.20, with the wind at S.E. by E., and the vessel was drifting dead before the wind at about $2\frac{1}{2}$ knots per hour. After 3 p.m. the wind commenced to decrease in force with rising barometer.

At midnight on the 27th the centre may have been in about $20^{\circ} 116'$ and at noon on the 28th it was situated midway between these two vessels and in $21^{\circ} 00'$, $114^{\circ} 30'$. At 3 p.m. it passed about 40 miles to the south of Gap Rock, the barometric minimum, 29.24, occurring there at this hour, with the wind a strong N.E. veering gale. At Hongkong the lowest barometer reading, 29.45, was recorded near 3 p.m. and the highest hourly wind velocity registered by the anemograph was 53 miles at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., the direction being N.E. by E.

Of other vessels the steamships *Taicheong*, *Devawongse*, and the Austrian frigate *Aurora* were all situated in the left-hand front quadrant on the morning of the 28th. The *Taicheong* was situated in $19^{\circ} 59'$, $113^{\circ} 50'$ at noon. At 7 a.m. they had the wind increasing from N.W. with falling barometer, and they suspected that a typhoon was situated to the N.E. of the vessel. At 9 a.m. they therefore rightly ran to the southward. At noon they had a strong W. backing gale, but at 3 p.m. they steered N. again as the barometer had commenced rising, with the wind steadily backing towards S. The *Devawongse* was situated in $19^{\circ} 30'$, $112^{\circ} 16'$ at noon and steering N. 31° E. The barometer, 29.61, was falling and the wind a fresh breeze from N.W. At 2.50 p.m. the vessel was very properly turned round and steered S. 22° E., the barometer having fallen to 29.54 with the wind a moderate N.W. gale. They had the wind backing to S.W., a fresh breeze, during the afternoon with the barometer rising slowly after 5 p.m. They steered N. 17° E. at 10 p.m. but as the wind increased to a moderate gale accompanied by fierce squalls from S. and S.W. and the barometer had a falling tendency, they again turned the ship's head to the southward and waited till the barometer rose decidedly. The Austrian frigate *Aurora* was situated in $19^{\circ} 8'$, $113^{\circ} 38'$ at 11 a.m. During the morning hours moderate to strong N.W. and W. breezes were experienced accompanied by constant rain. The wind backed slowly towards S.W. and the barometer fell to its minimum, 29.53, at 3 p.m., at which hour the wind was from W.S.W., of the force of a fresh breeze. At 3.15 p.m. a distinct band of peculiarly disturbed sea was observed to be approaching the vessel from E.N.E. It stretched from N.N.W. to S.S.E. and was between 300 and 400 yards in width. It passed the ship in a few minutes, at the rate of about six miles per hour, moving towards W.S.W. The sea was pyramidal in this area, the tops frequently bursting and throwing up the spray to a height of about six feet with a sound as though the vessel was lying in violently boiling water. Before the passing of this band of broken water a rough cross sea prevailed, but after its passage the sea calmed down considerably.

At this time the centre was passing at a distance of about 100 miles to the N. of the vessels,

the barometer on board showing the minimum at 3 p.m. with the wind thereafter backing rather quickly towards S., so that although the trough phenomena often observed in the depressions of more northern latitudes are not always well marked in typhoons, there is every reason to suppose that this phenomenon was connected with the passage of the trough in this case.

Between the 28th and 29th the disturbance moved towards W. by N. at the rate of about $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour and it entered the coast in the neighbourhood of Hui-ling-san ($21^{\circ} 35'$, $111^{\circ} 50'$) on the morning of the latter day. At noon on the 29th it was probably situated in $21^{\circ} 110'$ and during the evening of this day it passed a little to the N. of Pakhoi, where a N.W. gale, in the morning, backing to S.W. in the evening, was experienced. At the Custom House the lowest barometer reading, 29.26, was made at 11 p.m., but on board the steamer *Activ* at anchor in the port the minimum, 29.41, was registered near 5 p.m. The weather continued bad between Hongkong and Swatow and to the southward on this day. Gradients remained rather steep and strong breezes to fresh gales, chiefly from S.S.E., accompanied by hard rain squalls, prevailed over this area. At 11 a.m. on the 29th the Austrian frigate *Aurora*, on the starboard tack in $21^{\circ} 113^{\circ} 45'$ heading N. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. with the wind S. by E. (force 6 or 7), experienced a sudden squall, with the wind veering to S.W. (force 9), which took the vessel aback, but she was so skilfully handled that no damage was caused. Vessels in the left-hand semicircle are liable to encounter such veering squalls. In the right-hand semicircle the squalls usually veer in the proper direction. The ship *Alcedo*, just outside Hongkong, continued to have a moderate S.E. gale with heavy rain squalls on the morning of the 29th, and at 9 a.m. as the weather seemed to look worse again and they were unable to get off the lee shore, they decided to turn back and go into the port again.

On the 30th at noon the centre was perhaps in $23^{\circ} 107\frac{1}{2}'$ and it apparently filled up slowly, as the weather at Pakhoi and Haiphong continued to be influenced by it until the 31st.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LIMITED.

The half yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited, was held at the offices, Praya Central, yesterday afternoon. Mr. G. B. Dodwell presided, and there were also present—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. J. Kramer, S. C. Michaelsen, N. A. Siebs, J. S. van Buren (Directors), R. Cooke (Acting General Manager), T. I. Rose (Acting Secretary), C. A. Tomes, R. Mitchell, C. Tomlin, Fullerton Henderson, E. Georg, J. McCallum, P. Leiris, C. S. Sharp, Hart Buck, and S. L. Darby.

The Acting Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the report and accounts have been in your hands for some time past, and with your permission I will take them as read. Just two years ago the chairman congratulated you on the good results then placed before you, which had up to that time only once been exceeded. This half year, however, gentlemen, is the record half year of the Dock Company since its formation, and it affords your directors much pleasure in placing before you the very satisfactory result shown by the present accounts. A very large amount of work has been done, and at times the resources of the Company have been tested to their utmost, but owing to the extension and improvements of our docks and plant, which have been made from time to time, we have been able to attain the present position, whilst at the same time we have, we hope and believe, given good satisfaction to our customers. At the last meeting the chairman mentioned his doubt as to what effect the war then raging between China and Japan would have upon our Company; well, gentlemen, the docks in Japan were so continuously required for the war vessels and transports of that country that a great deal of general docking business was thrown in our way, and some heavy jobs, notably the *Irene*, the *City of Rio de Janeiro*, and the *Riversdale* came into our hands. We are undoubtedly indebted to the war between China and Japan in a considerable measure for our present handsome earnings. The profit available

for appropriation is \$328,113.39. We propose to pay a dividend of 7 per cent., which will absorb \$109,375, to pay a bonus of \$100 to contributing shareholders, to write off from the Kowloon Docks \$65,865.40; from the Cosmopolitan Docks \$61,058.88 and from the *Fame* \$6,453.71, and then carry forward to the new account a balance of \$95,260.40. It may be said by some shareholders that we ought to pay a larger dividend than is now proposed. I would remind you, gentlemen, as you have been reminded from time to time by my predecessors, that as long as our position compels us to borrow locally to any large extent your directors do not deem it to be a wise or a sound policy to increase the dividend. I am happy to say that during the half year we have succeeded in reducing these local loans from \$360,400 to \$195,400, and we are hopeful that before we again meet you we shall be able to advise that we have still further reduced this item in our books. Then again I would mention to those who may grumble at the present dividend that our business is of a most fluctuating character, that we cannot overlook the heavy depreciation constantly taking place with such property and running machinery as we possess, and, however well kept up it may be, additions will be constantly required if we are to be in a position to undertake the business offering from time to time. During the last six months the lengthening of the No. 3 dock at Kowloon from 230 feet to 260 feet has been completed, and the No. 2 dock has been lengthened from 330 to 371 feet; though this latter work is not yet finished it is sufficiently far advanced for us to use the dock for its entire length, and at Cosmopolitan Docks the new machine shop which was badly needed is nearly completed. We find that to meet the increased demands and the heavier work now coming to the East many improvements and additions will be necessary, some of which we must face very shortly. At Kowloon docks a new blacksmiths' shop and forge must be built, and the machine and the coppersmiths' shops must be enlarged, and more modern appliances procured for them in order to facilitate and cheapen as much as possible the cost of work. Past experience has taught us that the more facilities we have for doing work the more work comes to us, and that by having the latest improvements in machinery and tools we have been able to do this work quickly and to make good profits, notwithstanding the increased cost to us (caused through the low level of exchange) of imported materials. Owing to the heavy pressure of work at times on our other establishments our docks at Aberdeen have been employed considerably more than usual, and it is a satisfaction to the directors to find that their policy in keeping these docks open and in working order has now resulted in a profit on the working at Aberdeen of some \$18,000 during the six months under review. The old quarters for the staff at Kowloon have been found uncomfortable, owing to their close proximity to the machine shops. It is hardly necessary for me to say that men who are working hard all day require a good rest at night; we find that so much night work has inevitably to be done in the machine shops that our staff have suffered much inconvenience, and we have consequently commenced building new quarters on the Company's vacant land to the west of the shops. I should mention also that the contemplated extension of the blacksmiths' shop and forge would have compelled us in any case to remove the present quarters of the staff. You will be glad to know, gentlemen, that we have at the credit of the Admiralty loan exchange adjustment account an amount of \$8,401.14, the difference between 2/- and 2/1½ exchange; in the present uncertainty of exchange the directors deem it best to follow the precedent established in a previous instance and to carry forward this sum. Material on hand still stands at a very heavy amount; this matter has had our serious attention with the object of reducing the stock we carry, but it will always be necessary, if we are to work a large business efficiently, to have a good supply of all the most needed materials. Before closing my remarks, gentlemen, I would like to call your attention to the good work that has been done by our staff; frequently it has been day and night work for them, but their services have been readily and ungrudgingly given. It is mainly owing to their hearty co-operation that the present good results have been attained, and the directors desire to record their appreciation of the excellent

work done by the staff. Our Secretary, Mr. Gillies, was granted a year's holiday, and left us in May last; to fill the temporary vacancy thus caused we have appointed Mr. R. Cooke Acting General Manager, and, in order that Mr. Cooke should be relieved of most of the clerical work and have more time to devote to the management of our business, we have appointed Mr. T. I. Rose Acting Secretary. Before proposing the adoption of the report and the passing of the accounts I shall be happy to answer to the best of my ability any questions that you may desire to ask.

Mr. GEORG—I have listened with very great interest to the *exposé* of the financial position of the Company. I think every shareholder ought to be very well satisfied with the statements made and very pleased that the Company is in a sound and good position. At the same time the dividend which it is proposed to pay at the present moment is only 7 per cent. In view of the good business which I believe is in the hands of the Company the directors might, I think, recommend a higher dividend when we meet here again. I have been looking up the reports since 1882 and I find that since that time \$1,500,000 has been written off property and plant; and when the writings off as recommended in this report have been effected our property will stand at the very low figure of \$1,400,000. That amount is far below the real value. The item, sundry creditors, has been reduced by \$200,000 during the half year, and with a run of ordinary good luck we might see this account disappear altogether. A higher dividend paid, and a reserve fund started to form the nucleus of a fund should it be necessary to increase our establishment by the erection of a new Admiralty dock, about which the Company has been approached by the authorities. I only hope that at the end of the next half year we shall have another good report and a higher dividend. Naturally good reports create a demand for shares, which have gone up to 110 and 111 per cent. premium. Amongst the number of investors there is an ever-growing class of small investors who, owing to the high dollar value of the present shares, cannot afford to invest in a marketable quantity. On their behalf I would submit to the directors the propriety of subdividing the present shares of each \$125 paid up into five shares of \$25 paid up. The new share would at the present rate be worth over \$50 and would be within easy reach of small investors. This is not the place or time to make a formal proposition to that effect, and I do not press for an immediate expression of opinion, but I hope the directors at the next meeting of the Board will take my remarks into their favourable consideration, and if they agree with the propriety of sub-dividing the shares to take the necessary steps at once.

The CHAIRMAN—In reply to Mr. Georg I would remind him that the writings off have been very carefully considered. The property is still at a very high price and the one thing we must bear in mind is the possibility of opposition. We believe ourselves that we have written the property down to a safe value; if opposition came we might have to ask the shareholders to write it down still further. The property as docks and workshops is worth a great deal more than it stands at in our books, but if we had opposition we should be in a very different position. With regard to the dividend, at present we do not feel justified in recommending a higher rate. It is impossible to say what we shall be able to do at our next meeting, and everything depends on the results of our half yearly working. At present I am glad to record that July has been a very fair month and there seems to be good work coming to us. If we only get what we hope and expect we will be able to pay a higher dividend at our next meeting. (Applause.) Mr. Georg's remarks about sub-dividing the shares have our attention and they will be carefully considered. As regards the new Admiralty Dock, about which there are various rumours, I would mention that nothing but preliminary negotiations have so far passed—nothing that we could in any way convey to shareholders at present. If there are no more questions to be asked I propose the adoption of the report and passing of the accounts.

Mr. SHARP—I have much pleasure in seconding that. I think every shareholder must congratulate the Board upon being able to produce

such a very satisfactory statement. In regard to the dividend it must be the opinion of all the shareholders having the real prosperity of the Company at heart that fancy dividends should not be paid, but we must be content with a fair dividend until things look better and the Company's position improves.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting and I thank you for your attention. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow morning.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA LIMITED.

The following is the report of the directors to the shareholders for the half year ending 29th June, 1895:

To the Shareholders of the National Bank of China, Limited.

Gentlemen.—We have the pleasure to submit to you the interim accounts for the six months ending 29th June last.

The profit earned so far amounts to \$30,434.12, which, with \$10,087.04 brought forward from the previous half year, makes a total of \$40,501.16 undivided profit to be carried forward.

The accounts at the head office have been audited by Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. Hutton Potts and in London by Messrs. Deloitte, Dever & Griffiths, chartered accountants.—Your obedient servant,

HERM STOLTERFOHT,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 7th August, 1895.

BALANCE SHEET, 29TH JUNE, 1895.

LIABILITIES	\$ c.
Capital 750 fully paid founders' shares of £1 each (at par of 3s.)	5,000.00
Capital, partly paid, £327,001 (at par of 3s.)	2,180,006.66
Reserve fund	50,000.00
Notes in circulation	470,100.00
Fixed deposits, current and other accounts	2,587,256.62
On drafts, acceptances and endorsements (bills re-discounted)	1,494,092.57
Balance of profit and loss account	40,501.16
	\$6,826,957.01

ASSETS.

ASSETS.	\$ c.
Cash on hand and at Bankers	996,939.72
Government securities belonging to the Bank	39,000.00
Bills receivable, loans and advances	5,377,717.58
Furniture, stationery and stamps	37,621.92
Adjusting account (exchange and interest)	375,677.79
	\$6,826,957.01

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, 29TH JUNE, 1895.

Dr.	\$ c.
Charges, salaries, directors' fees, &c.	60,577.81
Balance to be carried forward to next account	40,501.16
	\$101,079.00

Cr.	\$ c.
Balance brought forward from last half-year	10,067.04
Gross earnings for half-year ending 29th June, 1895	91,011.96
	\$101,079.00

RAUB.

The Mining Manager's report for the four weeks ending the 8th August, 1895, is as follows:

Raub Hole No. 2 Shaft.—This is now sunk to a depth of 83 feet below the 120 feet level. The ground is a little better for sinking, but the water has increased, and the pump has all it can do to keep it out. A good deal of time has been lost through this cause, and, should the water increase, we shall not be able to sink deeper until the large pump now on the way up river arrives.

There is no change to report in the stopes; work is not pushed on in them at present as we have plenty of crushing stuff independent of them to keep the mills fully employed, so only a limited quantity of crushing stuff has been sent to the battery from here. The stopes north of the winze on the ore chutes above the 120 ft. level are practically worked out; but there is still a good deal of ground to take out south of the winze which shows good gold. There is no other work being done in this section.

Bukit Koman.—The work of extending the stopes is being steadily pushed on, and still shows the same favourable developments. These stopes are now considerably over 300 ft. long from the north to the south faces, with every appearance

of continuing. The average width for the whole distance is 15 to 16 feet, the whole of which is being sent to the mills for crushing. There is no change to report in the prospects.

Engine Shaft.—This is now sunk 64 feet below the 146 feet level. The ground is still black slate and is getting harder. The water continues about the same. The new 10" inch pump for this shaft has arrived, but no pipes have yet come.

Western Lode.—Work in the stopes between the north and south winzes is being carried on as usual. Very good gold is being got from these stopes, which are turning out a fair quantity of crushing stuff. I have stopped the stopes north of the north winze as I do not think them worth working. A crosscut has been driven 45 feet east from the south air shaft to intersect the south end of the stopes. We have also opened a drive south near the south air shaft; 25 feet has been driven on a make of stone about 3 feet wide which shows good gold in breaking. This is a distinct body of ore from what we are working in the stopes between the two shafts. It appears to be a continuation of the lode worked in the level above and I think is a split in the lode. As this is going south into new country it may develop something of importance; in any case it will add largely to our reserves of ore in this section. Taking this section of the mine all through it is looking remarkably well at present. The ground is easy and inexpensive to work; the water gives very little trouble. As soon as I finish sinking the Raub Hole and Bukit Koman shafts it is my intention to sink this shaft 100 feet deeper, as I consider the prospects fully warrant my doing so.

Battery.—This has been kept going full time since the last clean up, and has worked in all 717 hours crushing 1,145 tons. A rough clean up took place on Monday, the 5th inst.; the above number of tons yielding 1,550 oz. amalgam. Crushing was resumed again the same afternoon and the mill has run full time since.

Machinery.—This is all in first class order.

Railway.—The whole of the formation including bridges and culverts will be finished to the present section ("Bukit Malacca") by the end of the end of this week. About three-quarters of a mile of the track has been ballasted and the rails laid for about half a mile. As we have no more rails to continue the work I have had to discharge half of the coolies. Had we the material, the whole of the line would have been completed by the end of the present month. The whole delay in getting up the materials is at Pekan. We have no trouble in getting stuff from Lebok Tuoh here, although by far the most difficult part of the journey, the boats having to be hauled over waterfalls by blocks and tackle. The Bilut river is very low just now owing to the dry weather we are having, which makes the work of getting up the material more difficult. This delay will add considerably to the cost of the work. Most of the coolies are at present employed trimming up banks and finishing the work as far as possible.

W.M. BIBBY.

THE GYMKHANA MEETING.

There were serious doubts whether the postponed third Gymkhana Meeting would be held on Saturday, for heavy clouds hung over the colony and looked very threatening. Fortunately the rain did not come and there was a very good attendance at the Happy Valley. The meeting was very successful, but rather slow, the delay being so great that before the last race was run the golden tint in the western sky was fading; in other words it was getting dark. The best race without doubt was the third one, and a splendid finish was witnessed. In the straight it looked as if the winner would be either Warlock or Daylight, but fifty yards from the winning post Glenties and Chesai sprang forward and the former won by about a quarter of a neck. The following were the officials—

Committee:—Capt. Goold-Adams, R.A., Mr. R. Alexander, Mr. T. F. Hough, Lieut.-Col. Barrow, H.K.R., Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Mr. Hart Buck, Lord Chas. Conyngham, R.B., Mr. W. A. Cruickshank, Capt. Gordon, R.A., Mr. R. M. Gray, Capt. Loveband, A.D.C., Mr. A. S. Manners, Mr. G. C. C. Master, Lieut.-Col. The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G., Mr. C. S. Taylor, R.A., Commander W. F. Tannard, R.N.

Judges :—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Lieut.-Col. The O'Gorman.
Handicappers :—The Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Mr. R. M. Gray, Mr. Hart Buck.
Handicappers for the Distance Handicap :—Capt. Loveband, Mr. R. Alexander, Mr. W. A. Cruickshank.

Starter :—Capt. Goold-Adams.

Timekeeper :—Mr. R. M. Gray.

Clerk of the Scales :—Mr. R. Alexander.

Hon. Treasurer :—Mr. G. C. C. Master.

Hon. Secretary :—Mr. T. F. Hough.

By kind permission of Major the Hon. E. Noel and the officers of the 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade the band of the regiment played several selections during the afternoon.

Foot Race for Europeans; run 100 yards backwards.—Any man facing the winning post during the race will be disqualified; if a competitor falls he must rise with his back to the winning post. First prize \$7, second \$5, third \$3, fourth \$2.

Private Ryder, R.B. 1

Private Harris, R.B. 2

Private Green, R.B. 3

Private Kemp, R.B. 4

About a dozen competitors took part in the race, which, as may be imagined, was very amusing. The man who put his nose in front was disqualified, and the backward running resulted in one or two falls and collisions.

POLO PONY SCURRY FOR bond side POLO PONIES; about quarter mile.—Start opposite the Grand Stand, ride a distance round a flag keeping it on the right, thence back to a second flag, which must be ridden round keeping it on the left, and finish at the winning post; catch weights over 12 stone; entrance fees; first prize a cup presented by Lt.-Col. The O'Gorman; second 70 per cent. of entrance fees; third 30 per cent. (Colours optional in this race.)

Mr. Manners' Iron Duke, 12st. (Mr. Taylor) 1
Mr. D. Power's Crusader, 12st. (Owner) 2

Mr. Cruickshank's Simple Simon, 12st. (Owner) 3

Mr. R. A. Grayson's Gunner, 12st. (Owner) 0

Capt. Burney's Harbro', 12st. (Owner) 0

Capt. Loveband's The Friar, 12st. (Owner) 0

Considerable skill had to be shown in this race, as the ponies had to be sharply turned round the flag post. Iron Duke won by four lengths.

FIVE FURLONG RACE, HANDICAP; for all China ponies; first prize a cup value about \$40; second 70 per cent. of entrance fees; third 30 per cent.

Lord C. Conyngham's Glenties, 10st. 10lbs....

(Mr. Radclyffe) 1

Mr. Little's Chesai, 11st. 7lbs.... (Mr. Taylor) 2

Mr. Cruickshank's Warlock, 12st. 6lbs....

(Mr. Master) 3

Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving's Daylight, 12st. 6lbs.

(Mr. Master) 0

This was a very good race indeed. At the rock Warlock was leading, but passing the village Daylight came up to him and the other two followed a short distance behind. Nearing the bend Warlock appeared to drop back, but he and Daylight were running a close race on entering the straight. Glenties, however, now sped swiftly to the front and headed the others, who were close behind. A hundred yards from the winning post Chesai came up with a bound and an exciting finish was the result. It looked like a dead heat from the grand stand, but the judges gave the verdict in favour of Glenties. A short distance between second and third. Time, 1 min. 22 secs.

DISTANCE HANDICAP, ONCE ROUND; open to all horses and/or ponies. First prize a cup value about \$40; second 70 per cent. of entrance fees; third 30 per cent. (Colours optional in this race.)

Mr. Master's Done Brown, 580 yds.

(Mr. Gedge) 1

Mr. W. D. Graham's Joe, 400 yds. (Owner) 2

Captain Loveband's The Friar, 210 yds....

(Owner) 0

Mr. S. L. Darby's Shifter, 240 yds. (Owner) 0

Mr. Power's Crusader, 230 yds. (Mr. Lewin) 0

Mr. Power's Naniwa, 230 yds. (Mr. Taylor) 0

Lord Conyngham's El Diablo, 210 yds....

(Owner) 0

Mr. Radclyffe's Cockernony, 200 yds. (Owner) 0

Mr. Buck's Voltigeur, 100 yds. (Owner) 0

This did not prove a very good race. Done Brown received 580 yards start and won easily.

The other ponies straggled in. Time, 1 min. 34 secs.

LADIES' NOMINATION "ZEREBBA" RACE.—Competitors to start opposite the Grand Stand facing up the Valley, ride a distance, jump a hurdle, dismount, raise a dummy (fallen comrade), and return over same hurdle. The competitors will be under rifle fire during the contest. Two prizes, presented by Lieut.-Col. Barrow and W. A. Cruickshank, Esq.

Nominated by Capt. F. R. Loveband's The Friar, Mrs. Black 1
Mr. Salmon's Q.C. Mrs. Moore 2
Mr. W. A. Cruickshank's Engineer.....

Miss Hancock 3

Mr. Little's Chesai..... Mrs. Dalrymple 0

The race was productive of plenty of fun and excitement. First of all the hurdle had to be cleared, then the jockeys dismounted, then they were fired at by a small detachment of the Hongkong Regiment, and while the riders were picking up the supposed fallen comrades, the ponies, not being of Buffalo Bill's fiery mustang order, got frightened at the shots, and one ran away in order to fight another day. The others were with difficulty re-mounted, and they finished in the order named.

HANDICAP.—**FROM THE TWO MILE POST ONCE ROUND AND IN**; for all China ponies. First prize a cup value about \$50, presented by H. N. Mody, Esq.; second 70 per cent. of entrance fees; third 30 per cent.

Lord Conyngham's Glenties, 10st. 11lbs....

(Mr. Radclyffe) 1

Mr. Master's No Go, 10st. 12lbs. (Owner) 2

Mr. Cruickshank's Warlock, 11st. 6lbs.

(Owner) 3

Messrs. Lewin & Power's Dandy, 11st. 4lbs...

(Mr. Lewin) 0

Mr. Little's Chesai, 11st. 8lbs.... (Mr. Taylor) 0

Mr. Hart Buck's Voltigeur, 11st. 6lbs.

(Owner) 0

Mr. Graham's Baccarat (Capt. Burney) entered, but was left at the post. Chesai led for some distance, the others following in a line one behind the other. Gradually Warlock gained an advantage, but he was at length overtaken by Glenties and No Go, the former winning by three lengths. Time, 2 min. 27 secs.

FOOT RACE—STRETCHER RACE; two men carrying a wounded comrade in a stretcher; distance 150 yards. First prize \$6, second \$4.50, third \$3; open to native soldiers and police in uniform.

Men of the Hongkong Regiment took part in this race and they gave a very interesting illustration of how quickly a comrade on a stretcher can be carried.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

There was a large attendance on Saturday to compete for the Short Range Cup, which was won by Mr. Henderson. The spoons were won by Mr. Rutter, Mr. White, Mr. McDonald, Mr. McPhail, Surgeon-Capt. Beveridge, and Sapper Lawson, R.E. The following were the best scores:

	200 yds.	300 yds.	H'cap	Total points.
J. Henderson	29	27	12	68
R. Rutter	30	25	12	67
G. White	28	21	14	66
D. McDonald	32	26	6	64
H. McPhail	23	24	12	64
Surgeon-Capt. Beveridge	29	20	15	61
Sapper Lawson, R.E.	32	27	4	63
C. M. Firth	30	22	10	62
Lieut. Close, R.B.	27	24	10	61
Mr. Stewart	27	27	6	60

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 14th inst. says:—Telegrams received at Shanghai yesterday from Chefoo reported that the *Soochow* was wrecked on the N.E. Promontory. The following from a correspondent may possibly refer to the same subject:—On the morning of the 11th instant signals were made from the lighthouse at the N.E. Promontory that an English man-of-war was reported ashore on the S.E. Promontory. The *Idsumi-Kan*, just out from Weihaiwei, stopped and read the signals, made no answer, and then went on her way towards Japan. The *Feiching* examined the land for thirty miles down to the S.E. Promontory and past it, but saw no sign of any accident. No signals were made from the S.E. Promontory lighthouse, so they evidently knew nothing about it.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

QUARANTINE AT MANILA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—It appears from the Manila newspapers recently to hand that the Governor General of the Philippines, guided by his sanitary advisers, has decreed that vessels arriving from this, and all ports on the coast of China, shall be henceforth subjected to from five to seven days' quarantine, whether or not they produce clean bills of health duly certified or otherwise by the Spanish Consul at the port of origin. Since it is quite hopeless to expect any show of common sense from the authorities at Manila, and seeing that at the present time the sanitary condition of this colony is infinitely more satisfactory and free from disease than that of the capital or any other town in the Philippines, would it not be a wise move on the part of our authorities to adopt similar measures against all arrivals from Manila? This would probably have the effect of stopping the communication altogether, and as by the same means they have cut themselves off from Singapore and Japan, it might possibly have the desired effect of bringing our Spanish neighbours to reason. Otherwise the only hope we can entertain of attaining that end is for the plague or cholera to break out in an epidemic form in their midst. This seems an uncharitable desire, yet when our interests are so seriously injured by such absurd and unnecessary regulations as those set forth in the decree referred to, it is only human nature to invoke the evil spirit to our aid. Let us hope that our authorities will take the matter up.—I am, dear sir, your obedient servant,

A SUBSCRIBER.

Hongkong, 17th August 1895.

THE KUCHENG MASSACRE.

The following telegrams appear in the *N. C. Daily News*:

Foochow, 12th August.

Forty arrests have been made at Kucheng, but as far as known they are of doubtful importance.

The U.S.S. *Detroit* has arrived.

Peking, 10th August.

Tsungli Yamen and British Minister hold daily conferences; result, so far, unknown, but in response to Viceroy Pien's memorial the Emperor has degraded Kucheng Magistrate for inability to prevent massacre, but retained to prosecute arrest of murderers. Viceroy Pien is ordered to exterminate the Vegetarians at all costs and special edicts have been sent to Fukien Commander-in-Chief Huang and the Admiral Yang at Amoy to send all available troops to assist Viceroy at Foochow. The Censorate has somehow got reliable news that the *Kolao Hui* centres have sent representatives to meet the White Lily chiefs in Fukien and Kiangsi to organise alliance to oppose Imperial government. The Vegetarians are said to belong to latter society. It is likely that some Censors will use this news to denounce certain Viceroys and Governors whose provinces are the hot bed of these secret societies.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

FOOCHOW, 13th August.

The Commission to enquire into the Kucheng massacre has started from Foochow. It consists of the British Consul and Vice-Consul, the American Consul, a Lieutenant of the U.S.S. *Detroit*, the Revs. Banister, Gregory, and Starr, several high Chinese officials, and a strong escort of soldiers.

LONDON, 13th August.

The *Times* concurs in the protests of the European communities in China against the inadequacy of the demands for redress made by Great Britain and other Powers. It says that if the Peking Government is incapable of controlling the people Great Britain must deal with the Provincial Authorities direct.

THE FUNERAL OF THE VICTIMS.

Foochow, 5th August.

The funeral of the ten victims took place yesterday morning (6th inst.), at 5.30. There was a large assembly, and universal sorrow and horror was expressed. The sight was certainly awful—one large long grave in compartments, and there lay in coffins all that was left of our dead countrywomen. Well might we be excused for feeling that nothing too bad could be done to the instiga-

tors of the outrage. Archdeacon Wolfe and Mr. Eyton Jones read the service, and the English Consul, the Vice-Consul at Pagoda, Mr. Banister and Mr. McClelland carried the little coffin containing all that was left of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart out of the chapel to the grave; the other coffins were put in the grave during the night. Mr. Banister spoke a few words after the service, asking that something be done to show the horror felt, but he could not go on, and completely broke down. Altogether it was the most appalling spectacle ever seen in this place.

Each coffin had an inscription, and I thought that on Lena's (the nurse) most appropriate. It was "Faithful unto death." The poor girl, as you will see from the statement, died defending the baby under her charge.—*Mercury* correspondent.

INDIGNATION MEETING AT AMOY.

We have been furnished with the following minutes of a meeting held at the Masonic Hall, Amoy, August 6th, 1895, to consider certain resolutions regarding the recent massacre of missionaries in the neighbourhood of Foochow:

A large number of residents being in attendance,

Mr. Orr proposed and Mr. Cass seconded that Mr. C. T. Gardner, C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Consul, take the chair. Carried *nem. con.*

The Chairman stated that the meeting had been convened contrary to his advice, as he should have preferred waiting fuller information before taking action, but the fact that nearly every European and American "man" in Amoy was present, showed that the community was determined to take immediate action. Under these circumstances the question was, what action would it be most desirable to take?

The distressing news from Foochow, following so closely on other attacks on Christian missionaries in other parts of China, indicates that the Chinese Government has not taken adequate measures to protect the Europeans in China. There is in China a party—numerically small, but influential—that is actively malevolent to us; this party is apt to stir up the ignorant and superstitious natives against us by vile slanders, and to them are joined habitual criminals who attack us for the sake of plunder. Mr. Gardner did not believe the Central Government was hostile to Europeans, but experience showed that it will not incur the unpopularity of taking adequate measures to restrain the malevolence of certain influential subjects, nor to enlighten the ignorance of the superstitious common people unless pressure is brought upon it by the foreign Governments.

The community of Amoy lived in more intimate relations with the Chinese than at other ports of China; it would, therefore, perhaps be able to help in giving such information to people at home as might result in the home Governments putting sufficient pressure on the Peking rulers to take adequate measures for the future security of the subjects and citizens of Western States residing in China.

In Foochow the victims were principally British subjects: a few American citizens had been wounded. In China the interests of all Western nations are identical; the same condition of things that causes outrages on the members of one nationality endangers the security of every white man in the Empire.

Mr. Orr asked for further particulars of the outrage.

The Chairman replied that as far as was known ten persons were killed and three wounded, including several ladies and children.

This was confirmed by Mr. Suenson, who gave the names of the victims, as they had been privately telegraphed to him, viz., Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart and child, who were burned alive, the Misses Stewart, Saunders (2), Gordon, Newcombe, Yellup, and Marshall, who were most brutally murdered. Two or three others (believed to be Americans) were wounded, whilst some were still missing and supposed to be in hiding. Another child of Mr. Stewart's has since died from its injuries. A public meeting had been held in Foochow yesterday.

Mr. Cass had also received telegrams confirming these reports, and stated that meetings had been held at Hongkong and Shanghai. He appealed to the meeting on the ground of common humanity to support the following resolutions:

1.—That this meeting express its abhorrence of the revolting massacre at Kucheng, the

terrible details of which are probably unfit for publication or discussion.

2.—That it considers any monetary offers from the Chinese Government in compensation should not be accepted; further, that the execution of a few innocent Chinese by their officials, as is customary in these instances, will not adequately meet the requirements of the case.

3.—That should the British Government pass this matter over in the manner they have hitherto done, foreign life and property are absolutely unsafe in China.

4.—That the severest retribution be demanded, which shall include the punishment of actual offenders, including every official and literati in the province of Fohkien and the holding by a foreign force of the ports of Amoy and Foochow until ample retribution has been exacted.

5.—That a telegram of condolence be despatched to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, head of the Church of England, on the cruel death of the members of that Church.

6.—That a sympathetic telegram be sent to the friends of the outraged victims.

7.—That these resolutions be telegraphed to Lord Salisbury, H.M. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

8.—That all non-British subjects present at this meeting be entreated to use their influence in the name of our common humanity to give force and effect to these resolutions as best they can through their national representatives.

Mr. Orr seconded, adding that unless something were done, and done promptly, repetitions of this outrage would probably take place all over the Southern provinces.

Rev. Mr. Sadler thought a standing Committee should be appointed to guard against such outbreaks. Trouble was being experienced elsewhere but nothing was being done here, and at any moment there might be an uprising. These things originated at headquarters, the people being stirred up by the officials and literati. Great firmness is necessary and pressure should be brought to bear on the home Governments.

The Chairman said that as a British official he could not support the resolutions as they stood, though heartily agreeing with the general tenour of them. He moved to amend the first clause by omitting the words "the terrible details of which are probably unfit for publication or discussion."

Mr. Leyburn seconded and the amendment was carried.

Mr. Gowland moved an amendment to clause 2 as follows:—Money compensation having been found utterly inadequate should not be accepted. Seconded by Mr. Boyd and carried unanimously.

The Chairman moved to omit the words "the British Government" in clause 3, which was agreed to.

The Chairman objected to the wording of clause 4, though agreeing that previous modes of punishment had not acted as a deterrent, and he agreed that some material guarantee should be exacted from the Chinese, but held that the nature of the guarantee should be left to the home Governments to determine. He moved as an amendment—

"That the severest retribution be demanded, which shall include the punishment of all who have contributed actively or passively to the lamentable event, and that an adequate material guarantee be demanded."

After some discussion as to the nature of the guarantee the amendment was adopted.

It was resolved that the first four clauses of the resolution should be cabled to the Foreign Office and the fifth to Her Majesty Queen Victoria. Mr. Gardner objected to the latter on the ground of its being an unusual course to pursue.

The remainder of the resolutions were carried unanimously, and on the motion of Mr. Sadler the following were elected a Committee to carry out the objects of the meeting:—Messrs. Broadbent, Cass, Kip, Orr, Price, and Wales, Mr. Sadler's name being added by general consent.

On 7th August the following telegram was despatched to Lord Salisbury, a copy at the same time being cabled to H.B.M.'s Minister, Peking:—

"Lord Salisbury, London.

"Meeting Amoy community unanimously expressed abhorrence Kucheng Massacre consider common safety involved urge strong prompt measures stern retribution and material guarantees obtained also that no blood money be accepted."

The Committee decided not to send the telegram to Her most Gracious Majesty the Queen referred to in clause 5.

The Meeting was the largest and most unanimous ever held in Amoy on any subject.

INDIGNATION MEETING AT TIENTSIN.

An indignation meeting in reference to the recent anti-foreign outrages was held at Tientsin on the 10th August and the following telegrams were sent to the Press in London and America:—"The foreign community express their sympathy with the friends of the Kucheng victims. They consider the Chinese officials guilty. Both British and Americans blame the continued apathy of their governments for the situation. They regard England's demands in reference to the Kucheng massacre as useless. As before, the officials will buy innocent heads as substitutes for the actual criminals. The community protests against the Szechuen commission and the implicated officials thereon. England and America must send an ultimatum to Peking and threaten reprisals; to trust to diplomacy is useless. The attention of the Press to the matter is implored."

CHINESE ON THE MASSACRE.

The following, which we take from the *Mercury*, is a rough translation of a leader in the *Sin-wen-pao* referring to the riots at Kucheng. While it seems fairly reasonable, the sting in the tail should not be neglected:—

China's calamities are at present very great. The war with Japan had barely been settled when the anti-missionary riots at Chengtu broke out. Owing to this outbreak telegraphic instructions were sent from Peking to all the Viceroys and high officers reminding them that the missionaries must be protected. These officials at once took all possible measures (!), but in spite of this the Pingyang riot in Chekiang occurred, and now the Kucheng massacre is reported. In this, besides the houses and property destroyed, a great number of missionaries were killed and tortured, so that the occurrence is much more serious than any that preceded it. Yesterday a meeting of the local foreign officials and merchants was held and the banks were closed for this reason (!) The foreigners in Foochow held a meeting over this affair also yesterday, and it is remarkable that though these places are so far apart yet meetings were held on the same subject at the same time without consultation with each other. By this means the smartness and rapidity of action of the foreigners will be seen. It is said that in consequence of this massacre the Hongkong Government is to send a force to Foochow, and this, if true, is frightful, and will cause our Government much trouble. When the news of the Chengtu riots reached Peking, the Princes and Ministers of the Tsungli Yamen at once offered to pay for any damage done, but this the American Minister refused to accept, he saying he had no power to do so. He frequently begged (note) that the leaders of the mobs be arrested, and men-of-war of various nationalities were running up and down the Yangtze, taking orders to their nationals, and to prepare for their defence. This Chengtu affair was rapidly nearing settlement, but now, on account of the Kucheng affair, we cannot say when it will be settled. When the Japanese took possession of our territory and our army was constantly defeated, the foreigners said it would be a good lesson to the Chinese. But, on the contrary, riot after riot has broken out, and they are all much more serious than heretofore. By the treaties the missionaries are entitled to reside in the interior and to have protection, but the ignorant people will not obey the Imperial order, but have, on the contrary, tortured poor kind-hearted missionaries with the greatest cruelty. Their idea in acting thus is to wipe away the disgrace on the nation. When the Kiangsi riots took place Sin Wen-ching was governor, and as the people were then acting from the same motive, he prohibited the officials from punishing the people, telling his subordinates:—"The foreigners have been in our country for a long time against our will, and we should now allow the people to take revenge. You officials need not trouble yourselves, as I will myself pun-

ish all crime committed." He thus took the blame, and afterwards petitioned for punishment, but as he was in favour at court, he was not punished for the faithful action of the people. This time also the people are acting for faithful reasons, and so cannot be called mobs, but they are only stupid to mix up with the mobs.

As you missionaries are known to be kind-hearted men who treat others as you would be treated yourselves, we dare say this matter, too, can be easily settled, and that you will take pity on the present difficulties of our Government and the Emperor.

THE BEGINNING OF THE TROUBLE.

In the July number of the *Church Missionary Intelligencer* (the organ of the Church Missionary Society) there is an extract from a private letter by the late Rev. R. W. Stewart, dated 27th March, giving an account of the trouble "a turbulent political sect, calling themselves Vegetarians," were giving the Chinese authorities in the neighbourhood of Kucheng. Mr. Stewart wrote:—

Two nights ago I was writing very late, proposing to start on a long itineration next morning. I had just finished my quarter's accounts for Hongkong and my mail, about 4 a.m., when I was startled by calls of my name outside the house. Our native clergyman and several leading Christians had made their way across the river to bring me news that on information received the mandarin had suddenly ordered all the gates of the city to be walled that night to resist a rising among the Vegetarians! We had besides ourselves about 100 women and children in our compound. We talked and prayed and planned till daylight, when we woke everybody up, and first turned our attention to the schools. It was impossible to send these women and girls home, the rain began and fell in torrents, and no chairs could be got for them, and with their small feet the women could not walk, so the only thing was to send them into the city. We first sounded the neighbouring village people as to whether they would house them, but they were too frightened, and thought only of protecting themselves.

By daylight every gateway had been built up; the only ingress was by a ladder belonging to our chapel on the wall. They started off, a wonderful procession of women and children, nearly 100, and we watched them making their way slowly by the little ferryboat over the river and then up the ladder: it must have taken quite an hour that short journey of 150 yards. This done, the next thing was, what were our Z.M.S. ladies and ourselves to do? We first thought of our mountain house at Wha-sang, some ten or twelve miles away, but the rain came down so hard, and the chairs, being locked up inside the city, could not be obtained for love or money, so this was clearly impossible; the poor little children could never do it on foot in such weather, and on such mountain paths.

We did not much like shutting ourselves up inside the city, but there was nothing else for it—the mobs that were collecting might be down on us any moment; so we packed up a few things and followed the schools into the city. They are lodged in our large chapel—rather a crowd! and we are in one of the American Mission houses with four of our ladies. Three more from the country will come in to-morrow morning, I hope. The mandarin visited me this morning, but I could not find out on what information he was acting. The story is that late that Wednesday evening an old man, a stranger, presented himself at the yamen with a letter which he said must at once be taken to the mandarin, or he would press in and deliver it himself. It was done, the stranger went his way, and the gates were instantly ordered to be built up.

The officials promised the citizens that if they will themselves guard the city for five days, soldiers will then have arrived from Foochow. They are doing this zealously. The citizens in bodies of thirty or forty are stationed at short intervals round the wall day and night. They display their arms proudly in a row on the wall. The best things they have are sticks, for their three-pronged forks and swords are of so ancient a pattern, and have been used for so many other purposes during past ages, that they will do but little harm to the adversary.

Yesterday was wet and cold; however, the sentry at our part of the wall got over that difficulty by fixing his coat on a stick at the place where he was supposed to stand, while he himself sat in a warmer spot out of the wind.

Oh, such weapons! One man we observed washing his sword in a pool, not to cleanse it from blood, but mud and rust.

The mandarin in charge of the city came to us in state to-day, preceded by a magnificent bodyguard of eight soldiers, or at least men of the opium-smoking type, with soldiers' coats, wherever they got them, but they had stockingless feet, and only one had a military cap. They stopped to have a good look at us, especially admiring Mildred and Kathleen, and then slouched on. The procession was dominated by a man with a bamboo wand, such as schoolmasters use for their naughty scholars, only rather longer—whether to smack the boys who came too close to the great man, or to urge on the braves to the conflict, we did not know.

The mandarin begged to know if I had not even one gun to lend him to defend the city! "No," I said, "not one; we missionaries don't have such things." "And no cannon?" he asked again. Fancy asking a man if he had any cannon about him!

One thing gained is, the officials see the difference between Vegetarian and Christian. This very official has been abusing our convert in our late persecutions, saying that Vegetarians were better than they. To-day he exclaimed that "truly there was a wide difference between us." I hope he won't forget it when the trouble is over.

THE CHINKIANG AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

Peking, 11th August.

The Imperial Government appears to be in thorough earnest about the construction of the projected railway between Peking and Yangtsze ports. All preliminaries have already been arranged and work of laying the first rails will begin as soon as possible. The Assistant Grand Secretary and President of Board of Civil Appointments, Hsu T'ung, has been appointed Comptroller-General of Railways, with special department at Peking attached to Board of Revenue, and the Viceroys and Governors through whose provinces the railway is to pass are to have the title of Coadjutors, with two Taotais in each province to be working Directors or Managers. Most of these appointments have already been made by the Throne.—N. C. Daily News.

THE FRENCH CLAIMS IN SZECHUEN.

We learn that the settlement of the French claims for the destruction of the numerous missions in Szechuen is making considerable progress. The negotiations are being conducted in a somewhat curious, but doubtless an effective way. The French Minister forced the Chinese to accept Bishop Dupand as the French representative at the Commission, the Chinese being only represented by the Provincial Judge. The enquiry and negotiation take place daily in the yamen of the latter at Chengtu and every evening a full account is wired to Peking by the Bishop for the information of his Minister and by the Provincial Judge for that of the Tsung-li Yamen. In this manner Peking and the French Government are kept fully informed of everything that transpires, and instructions can be wired as to any difficulties that may arise. Steps have also been taken to secure that the Bishop's messages shall not be tampered with in the way with which the Imperial Chinese Telegraph Administration has familiarised us. A vast mass of evidence has been forwarded to Peking against the Szechuen officials in this way over their own wires and so strong is the case already made out against the Viceroy Liu Ping-chang that Prince Kung informed one of the Foreign Ministers that the ex-Viceroy had no chance of escape.—*China Gazette*.

There has been a good deal of talk about town to-day, says the *Shanghai Mercury* of the 18th inst., over a number of deaths which have occurred amongst the sisters in charge of Sicawei. Four of these died yesterday after only a few hours' illness, undoubtedly from cholera; and this has given rise to a number of rumours about mysterious diseases and dark plots. All these stories are absolutely without foundation, as the physicians are certain the cause of death was cholera.

HONGKONG.

Heavy showers have fallen during the last week, but Tytam reservoir is still far from being full, although Pokfulam reservoir is overflowing. The Customs seizure in British waters has had a singular sequel, a suspicious death having occurred, which the police at first thought had some connection with the firing that took place during the seizure. The Coroner is holding a thorough investigation into the mysterious affair. On Thursday the Sanitary Board met, and on the following day a meeting of the Legislative Council was held, when Bills of considerable interest were passed. The enquiry respecting the fire which broke out at 70, Jervois Street concluded on Thursday, when the premises were released. The most important feature in the case was the point raised on the question of a solicitor's right of cross-examination in such cases. The Gymkhana meeting on Saturday was very successful. In the evening a crowded audience assembled at the City Hall on the occasion of Mr. G. G. Brady's farewell concert. Mr. Brady leaves the colony to-day to the regret of every resident. He is unquestionably the ablest amateur orator, comic singer, and entertainer in general that has been heard in the colony. The half yearly meeting of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Limited, was held on Monday.

The death rate last month was, for the British and Foreign Community, civil population, 26.4, and for the Chinese community 21.7.

The maximum temperature last month was 91.3, on the 20th, and the minimum 73.4, on the 4th. The mean for the month was 82.1. The rainfall amounted to 18.87 inches.

The *Singapore Free Press* says:—There is some probability, we hear, that the battalion which will succeed the 5th Fusiliers here will be the 2nd Batt. Royal Irish Regiment (18th). In another quarter there is a rumour that we are possibly to have the Rifle Brigade from Hongkong.

Captain A. W. Miller, R.N., who for the last two years has held the appointment of Staff Captain of the Naval Yard, left for home on Wednesday by the *Empress of China*. Captain Miller will be much missed in musical circles and by the large number of friends he made in the colony.

The steamer *Cheang Hock Kian*, which arrived on Thursday from Singapore, reports that on the 13th August, at 11.30 a.m., she spoke the steamer *Taichiow*, about latitude 15° 27' S., longitude 110° 15' E., with both valves broken; took a letter for her owners, and left her under sail and repairing one engine for Cape Varella.

A sad fatal accident terminated a picnic in which a number of Portuguese residents took part. They went in a launch to Samshuiipo on Thursday afternoon and some of them went to the Cosmopolitan Docks and commenced to fish near the gates. One of the members was a girl named Noémi Maria Sequeira, 15 years of age, who was sometime afterwards missed. A search was at once instituted and at length the dead body of the girl was found in the sea. It is supposed that the unfortunate girl accidentally fell off the dock gates. An inquest will be held.

The report of the Director of Public Works for the first half of the present year states, under the heading of Tytam Water Works Extension, that—"Good progress has been made with the raising of the main dam and overflow; the former has nearly reached its full height and the latter has been completed to a height of five feet, at which level it is proposed to allow it to remain till after the rains of this year." From this it would seem that the colony will only have the advantage of one half of the addition to the storage capacity next dry season.

On Saturday, at the Harbour Office, two seamen were brought before Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings, Acting Marine Magistrate, on a charge of refusing to do their duty on the American barque, *George S. Homer*. On the previous day the mate of the ship was prosecuted for assaulting the men, and their defence was that they were afraid of being assaulted by the captain and the mate after leaving Hongkong. They were sent to gaol for three weeks. In the event of the ship starting before that time had expired the men were to be sent on board again.

There were 1,605 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 146 were Europeans.

The inquest on the coolie who was killed at the Central Market was concluded on Monday by Hon. H. E. Wodehouse. It was alleged that Constable Macdonald, while he had a prisoner in custody, kicked the deceased down the market steps and inflicted fatal injuries. As a matter of fact the constable said that the distance from where he was to the point where the man fell was fifty-two feet. The Magistrate returned the following finding:—"The deceased died from injuries sustained by a fall resulting in fracture of the skull, such fall taking place down the steps of the Central Market, leading into Jubilee Street, there being no sufficient evidence to show what led to the fall."

At the Magistracy on Saturday, before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, the captain of the *Memnon* was charged with having taken kerosine on board at a prohibited part of the harbour. It was proved that the kerosine was shipped from cargo boats at the Kowloon Wharf instead of the kerosine anchorage. This was not the first time the offence had been committed, and his Worship inflicted a fine of \$25. Inspector Hanson asked for a heavier penalty. The maximum penalty is \$250, but his Worship refused to alter his decision. Later he was appealed to by the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police to inflict a more substantial fine, but the Magistrate declined to accede to the request.

The Colonial Surgeon, in his annual report laid before the Legislative Council on Friday, makes the following suggestion, which will be endorsed by everyone:—"I would like to suggest that when coolies are licensed to carry chairs and run in jinrikishas, some consideration should be given to their physical capacity for doing such work. At least a quarter of the coolies so employed are quite unfit for it, and that they are so is patent to the most casual observer and needs no professional opinion. If they were horses their owners would be pounced upon at once for cruelty to animals and prosecuted. The unpleasant experience of having to get out of the vehicle and pay the coolie before his contract is carried out has occurred to many people frequently."

Our argument as to the basis on which the military contribution should be levied in Hongkong is endorsed by the *Singapore Free Press*, which says:—"We shall be much mistaken if our Hongkong friends acquiesce very tamely in an application of the 17½ per cent. principle to their own case without some clearer understanding. The fact is that Hongkong is practically an important municipal community, having a Crown Colonial instead of a municipal administration. From the circumstances that is, to some certain extent, unavoidable. But it should be remembered that a good deal of the Hongkong revenue is really of a municipal character and properly disposable only on town administration. For calculation of the true contribution percentage it seems to us that the Hongkong revenue should be carefully discriminated into municipal rates and general receipts. The ratio would only apply, necessarily, to the latter head, which would include excise, land revenue, stamps, and the other usual heads of Colonial revenue."

Dr Eitel, in his Educational Report for 1894, says:—"On 21st May, 1894, a panic spread, like wildfire, and emptied most of the Chinese schools in town owing to the rumour that the Government had resolved, in order to stop the plague, to select a few children from each school and to excise their livers in order to provide the only remedy which would cure plague patients. This silly rumour, accredited by the fact that Chinese national custom sanctions the medical use of excised portions of the living human body, gained general credence among the mothers of children attending purely Chinese schools and served to show how little way has been made yet by the Government of Hongkong in the direction of making their more enlightened aims understood by the Chinese population. Chinese women in Hongkong do not seem even now to have any more confidence in the Colonial Government than they had some ten years ago, when the girls' schools of the colony were suddenly emptied by the rumour that the Government was about to select a girl from each school to bury the children alive in the Taitamuk tunnel to ensure the success of the aqueduct."

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

5th August.

Our most striking news this week is the outbreak of cholera, which threatens us from two sides, the native city and the shipping from Chefoo. The weather is abnormally cool and dry, and the mere fact that it is so is credited unreasonably as the cause of the epidemic. There is a form of the disease differing a little from sporadic black cholera which is endemic to Tientsin native city. It is quite as fatal to the natives as its virulent cousin. Their careless dietetics and conditions of life render them peculiarly susceptible to its attacks. Europeans on the other hand by very simple precautions can easily escape it. Abstinence from water which has not been boiled and filtered, from unsound fruit and especially from melons, and great care in the presence of diarrhoeic symptoms and in the conditions of sleep give certain immunity. The Chefoo variety is black cholera; it has broken out in two of the Russian gunboats and in the crews of some of the coasting steamers.

Sir Nicholas O'Conor is expected in Tientsin immediately en route for Chefoo. With him will come the fat end of the Legation guard. The Minister is of opinion that the guard may now be dispensed with. Advantage will be taken of Sir Nicholas's presence to discuss some of the Land Regulations and Municipal questions which tend to hinder the expansion of the port and to limit trade facilities. It is hoped that a solution will now be found to the vexatious question of effecting permanent improvements by loans. At present the Municipality are doing all their "bunding" and "wharfing" out of income, a policy which necessarily involves piecemeal work and inefficiency.

Municipal affairs are attracting a good deal of attention just now, the present Council having very liberal and advanced views in municipal socialism. They are moving in the direction of a Public Recreation Ground and educational facilities for the foreign children.

The "German Concession" movement goes on apace. The Chinese inhabitants of the proposed area have to-day received verbal notice of compulsory sale in two months. The result was a great flutter in the native dove-cotes. There is still some doubt as to the exact locality, some thinking that it is co-terminous and continuous with the British concession; others that a gap of about three furlongs intervenes. This gap was once proposed as an American concession, and, *ad dit.*, is to be passed over so as not to hurt certain susceptibilities.

If the Americans are not going to take it up, it will be a pity to refuse it to Germany. The extension of the foreign settlement greatly concerns public hygiene, to say nothing of trading facilities.

A Japanese concession is the next move. Its exact location is a matter of present discussion. As a result of the war Tientsin is distinctly on the "boom."

Viceroyal affairs are exactly where they were. There are two kings in Brentford, and some of the ills and follies of a double rule. Still the idea gains ground that Li Hung-chang will return to power. Foreigners up here, who have the chance of gauging the relative ability and uprightness of Chinese officials, have a very decided preference for Li. They do not endorse the view of the Southern foreign press, but regard him still as immeasurably the best man in China for dealing with the outside world. A diplomatic enormity such as the late agreement with Russia would not have been run through so cleverly by Count Cassini had Li been at the helm.

Our last distinguished visitor was the Hon. T. H. Whitehead, from Hongkong; he is now to Peking.

MISCELLANERUS.

The *Foochow Echo* of the 10th inst. says:—"The premises of Messrs. Maitland & Co., Limited, were set fire to at one o'clock this morning by some incendiary. Fortunately prompt action was taken to stop the flames, which was easily done on the river side, and only a few hundred dollars worth of damage was done."

Five fishermen were found floating by the steamship *Coptic* while passing Kagoshima on the 25th ult., and taken to Nagasaki. They were kindly treated by the captain, who gave them food and clothes, besides 10 yen. They were the only survivors out of 29 who went out fishing on the 24th.

A private letter of the 1st of August from Chungking mentions, says the *N. C. Daily News*, that Mr. Davis, of the China Inland Mission at Wanhsien (on the Yangtze, below Chungking), had been badly beaten. The local mandarin refused to give either of the missionaries there an audience, and was encouraging a riot. But Mr. Tratman had an interview with the Taotai at Chungking, on receipt of the news, and the result was that the Taotai sent such instructions by wire as brought the Wanhsien official to his senses. The examinations are in full swing at Chungking just now, but the officials are watchful and everything is quiet.

The *N. C. Daily News* says the lightkeeper at the Saddles saw an exciting incident about a week ago. It is, of course, known that the Saddles are the hunting-ground of tribes of men who are fishermen by profession and pirates by practice. What appeared to be a big salt junk came sailing slowly along with one man at the helm and two or three sailors loafing on the deck. Two fast boats put off from the Saddles, with about ten armed men in each. The junk saw them and yawed about, trying vainly to escape. The boats pulled along side and made fast one on each side of the junk. Instantly the junk's decks bristled with soldiers, who poured a volley from their rifles into the boats, then jumped down, killed all whom the bullets had spared, and threw the bodies overboard, after cutting off the heads of the two leaders. The apparently harmless salt junk had been chartered by a mandarin who was out pirate hunting.

Despatches received from Peking by the Shanghai mandarins report, says the *N. C. Daily News*, that at the special recommendation of the Viceroy Chang, the Emperor will appoint Mr. Yung Wing, M.A. of Yale University, U.S.A., and a first-class expectant Taotai of Kiangsu, to be the organising director of the railway to be built between Chinkiang and Peking. Mr. Yung Wing is about sixty-eight years of age and a native of Hsiangshan (near Macao), Kwangtung, but became a naturalised American citizen soon after graduating from Yale University in the fifties. After successfully launching the China Educational Mission to the United States, Mr. Yung Wing became for several years deputy Chinese Minister at Washington during the seventies, and has been for the most part residing in Hartford, Connecticut, U.S.A., but came to China a couple of months ago in obedience to a special edict of the Emperor. Mr. Yung Wing is now at Nanking.

As stated in the supplement to last week's issue, says the *Nagasaki Express* of the 7th, the *Helene Rickmers* was got off and came in to the Mitsu Bishi dock here, severely damaged. In point of fact her whole bottom, from about 36 feet from either end, is one mass of corrugations, and it speaks wonders for the makers of her plates that these latter stood what they doubtless have. On her port side, that which was on the landward side when she grounded, the steel plates are dinted in to a distance of some 12 inches in many places, and generally resemble a corrugated iron roof. On the starboard side things are not quite so bad, although they are bad enough there, some of the plates having been forced in about eight inches out of their general level. Rivets have been wrenching out in all directions and it speaks volumes for her builders, on the Clyde, that she did not go to pieces altogether. Amidships, right under her engines, her keel has a space in it like a bow, about 15 feet in length and, at its greatest height, about six inches above the level of the bow or stern. The fact of her having two skins was undoubtedly what saved her from total destruction. Great credit is due to the Mitsu Bishi Company for the manner in which they got her off. A few years ago the case of a vessel ashore in Japan was considered almost hopeless by European underwriters. Now, however, things have greatly altered and a better opinion of matters here will be undoubtedly formed.

COMMERCIAL:

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1895-96	1894-95	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	2,996,796	2,280,336		
Foochow	8,436,197	8,530,894		
Shanghai and Hankow	12,975,009	12,036,736		
	24,408,002	22,847,966		

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96	1894-95	lbs.	lbs.
Amoy	5,304,500	5,785,884		
Foochow	2,634,556	2,735,162		
Shanghai	10,364,488	9,019,655		
	18,393,544	17,540,761		

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1895-96	1894-95	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	26,706,242	22,521,578		

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96	1894-95	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	19,456,512	19,202,792		
Kobe	11,130,509	10,634,292		
	30,587,021	29,837,084		

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 15th August.—(From Messrs. Cromie and Burkhill's Circular.—Telegrams from London dated 13th current report the market "firm" without change in quotations. Gold Kiling at 7/9, Blue Elephants at 10/3. Raw Silk.—There has been a fair daily business doing in various Silks. Holders continue firm on the basis of the last prices realised, but buyers refuse to pay further advances which holders are asking. Tsattees.—Settlements are about 750 bales, which would probably have reached a high figure had holders been more willing to accept current offers, especially in view of rising Exchange. The last sales effected were at Tls. 377½ for Mountain 4 and Tls. 342½ for Gold Kiling. Taysaams.—Business continues on a small scale, but embraces Kahings, Woosie, Chincum and Skeins. Rates are firm at the quotations given below. Yellow Silks are in fair demand at unchanged rates. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns from the 8th to the 14th of August are:—1,341 bales of White, 609 bales of Yellow, and 87 bales of Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—There is nothing doing in Re-reels. In Filatures business was done in Haining Filatures. Wild Silks.—About 150 bales have changed hands at prices varying as to quality from Tls. 122½ to Tls. 152½. Waste Silks.—The market is much quieter and no transactions are reported this week. Holders remain firm and will make no concession in prices so far. Pongees.—About 3,000 pieces Shantung Pongees settled as follows:—26 oz. at Tls. 3.35, 24 oz. at Tls. 3.15, 20/21 oz. at Tls. 2.40, 25/26 in. by 14½ yards by 23/24 oz. at Tls. 3.20, 25/26 in. by 14½ yards by 22½/23 oz. at Tls. 2.65 to Tls. 2.70.

Purchases include:—Tsattees.—Large Elephant 3 at Tls. 402½, Mountain 4 at Tls. 377½, Almond Flower Sutemay at Tls. 345, Gold Kiling at Tls. 342½, Silver Double Elephant at Tls. 342½, Blue Phoenix at Tls. 332½. Taysaam.—Gr. Kahing Ye Van-chong Chayling at Tls. 345, do. M at Tls. 327½, 9/12 Moss Double Butterfly 1 at 312½, do. 2 at Tls. 292½. Chincum.—Tiger Chop Tingchow at Tls. 345. Skeins.—Lie Skeins at Tls. 217½ to Tls. 230. Yellow Silk.—Shantung Skeins Gd. Double Almond Flower 2 at Tls. 280, Tunglo Chaba at Tls. 262½ to Tls. 265, Mienchew at Tls. 252½ to Tls. 265, Meeyang at Tls. 222½ to Tls. 225½. Filature Haining.—Double Mountain Chop 1 at Tls. 530, Gold Pheasant 2 at Tls. 500. Wild Silk.—Tussah Raw at Tls. 122½ to Tls. 152½.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1895-96	1894-95	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	14,473	6,861		
Canton	3,474	1,671		
Yokohama	1,781	1,414		
	19,728	9,946		

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1895-96	1894-95	bales.	bales.
Canton	2,907	2,222		
Shanghai	2,438	609		
Yokohama	3,455	1,419		
	8,800	4,250		

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 20th August.—No supplies having come forward there has been a further advance in prices. Quotations for Formosa are \$87.00 to \$87.50. During the past week sales have been 100 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 20th August.—Prices have advanced a little some demand having been experienced from Canton. Following are the quotations:—Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$7.27 to 7.30 per pic. do. " 2, White... 6.85 to 6.89 " Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.76 to 4.80 " do. " 2, Brown... 4.66 to 4.69 " Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.20 to 7.22 " do. " 2, White... 6.75 to 6.80 " do. " 1, Brown... 4.46 to 4.50 " Swatow, No. 2, Brown... 4.37 to 4.40 " Foochow Sugar Candy... 10.07 to 10.10 " Shekloong " 8.95 to 8.98 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The Hawaiian bark *Foohing Suci*, Hongkong to New York, 7th August, took:—14,359 rolls Matting, 2,500 packages Firecrackers, 100 casks Soy, 100 bales Rattancore, 38 cases Fans, 30 boxes Essential Oil, and 211 packages Merchandise.

The German ship *Siam*, Hongkong to New York, 12th August, took:—24,540 rolls Matting, 1,250 packages Firecrackers, 481 bales Rattancore, 300 boxes Woodware, 115 casks Soy, 75 boxes Broken Saigon Cassia, 50 cases Strawgoods, 45 cases Chinaware, and 42 cases Earthenware.

The steamer *Orestes*, Hongkong to London, 14th August, took:—12,619 packages Tea (35,343 lbs. Congou, 175,182 lbs. Scented Caper, 6,531 lbs. Scented Orange Pekoe, 11,320 lbs. sorts), 150 casks Soy, 6 boxes Chinaware, 240 rolls Mats, 39 cases Cigars, 18 cases Gun, 40 baskets Shells, 1,000 bales Hemp, 200 cases Ginger, 250 cases Ginger, 275 rolls Matting, 60 bales Canes, 330 bales Waste Silk, and 11 cases Sundries; for Liverpool:—3 cases Cigars, and 2,207 bales Hemp.

The P. & O. steamer *Kuisar-i-Hind*, Hongkong to London, 15th August, took:—13 cases Silk Piece Goods, 200 bales Canes, 7 cases Blackwoodware, 5 cases Cigars, 4 packages Sundries, 5 cases Essence of Ilang Ilang, 2 cases of Cigars from Manila, and 4 packages Tea; for France:—672 bales Raw Silk, 184 bales Pierced Cocoons, 2 cases Cocoons, 1 case Silk Piece Goods, and 255 boxes Tea; for Odessa:—4 bales Raw Silk.

HONGKONG, 20th August.—Bengal.—The demand has been slack during the interval and prices have declined. New drug closes at \$697½ for Patna and at \$685 for Benares; Old is quoted nominally at \$700 for Patna and at \$675 for Benares.

Malwa.—There has not been much change in rates during the period under review. Current quotations are as follow:

New \$700 with al'wance of 0 to ½ cts.

Old (2 years)... \$720 " 0 to 3½ "

Older... \$740 " ½ to 2½ "

Persian.—Has not undergone any alteration in value. Oily drug continues to be quoted at \$690 to \$720, and Paper-wrapped at \$750 to \$835 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:

New Patna..... 2,150 chests.

Old Patna..... 74 "

New Benares..... 490 "

Old Benares..... 330 "

Malwa..... 420 "

Persian..... 800 "

COUSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Aug. 15	705	710	790	690	700	720/740
Aug. 16	705	710	790	680	700	720/740
Aug. 17	702½	710	790	680	700	720/740
Aug. 18	700	705	685	675	700	720/740
Aug. 19	700	705	685	675	700	720/740
Aug. 20	697½	700	685	675	700	720/740

RICE.

HONGKONG, 20th August.—The market has remained steady during the last week. Closing quotations are:—

	per picul.
Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.08 to 2.10
Round, good quality	2.38 to 2.40
Long	2.48 to 2.50
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.07 to 2.10
Garden, " No. 1	2.48 to 2.50
Siam White	2.95 to 2.97
Fine Cargo	3.20 to 3.22

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 20th August.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

Tin-Plates.....	per box	5.20 to
Steel	per cwt. case	5.00 to
SUNDRIES.....	per picul	121.00 to
Quicksilver.....	per box	3.20 to
Window Glass	per 10-gal. case	1.95 to

SHANGHAI, 15th August.—(From Mr. G. W. Noel's report.)—The back of the summer is broken and the more congenial weather has had the anticipated effect on the dealers, who seem to have employed the few weeks' quietness in maturing their plans. The forward buying, mentioned in the last report as having commenced, became more general early in the interval, and favoured by a steady exchange, and not too exacting market in Manchester, one of the largest business ever done here, in the time, has gone through. Although the buying has comprised a fair variety of goods, attention has centred chiefly on the 36 and 39 inch Heavy Shirtings, those suitable for the Korean market occupying a prominent position. The enquiry has by no means ceased, though prices at home have advanced considerably, and those late with theirs orders find themselves at a disadvantage notwithstanding the better exchange obtainable. Business from stock has been brisk, and consists principally of medium 8.4 Shirtings; towards the close, however, the cheaper classes of American Sheetings have attracted a little attention and some old parcels that have been hanging fire have found buyers. Standard chaps are scarce and likely to remain so, shipments being considerably curtailed, the export from the States, according to mail advices, being only about two-thirds of the quantity shipped last year. It would seem that this should have a favourable effect on similar Manchester makes, but so far has not done so. Judging by the deliveries here the market in the consuming districts must be in a very satisfactory position, but there is no particulars news from any of our dependencies. There is a good deal of sickness still prevailing, and two of the Northern Ports have been declared infected, but that is scarcely likely to have any serious effect on trade. The Tientsin men are, indeed, buying in anticipation of further orders, and a few parcels have been settled for Newchwang also. What with the rather free buying that has been going on for this market and the advance in American cotton, owing to reported unfavourable accounts of the growing crop, manufacturers in Manchester, with plenty of orders in hand, have seen fit to raise their prices, for heavy Shirtings especially, which has caused a lull in the buying at the close. Cotton is now quoted 3*1/2* d. The crop here, favoured by very suitable weather, is expected to be a very good one and lower prices are assured.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Biefield's report.)—16th August.—Trade in Metals has been quiet but steady since my last report. The current opinion of native dealers is that home prices will drop further, and they look for a weakening in outward freight for dead weight during the next two months. In this they are probably mistaken, for freights are apparently like almost everything else on the other side, at a very low level. Signs indeed are not wanting of a steady improvement in home values and no less an authority than the *Economist* points out that a slow but sure and welcome upward movement is taking place already. Telegraphic quotations for many lines confirm this view and unless Chinese dealers satisfy their wants they will, I expect, have to pay higher prices than those ruling now. Lead.—100 tons L.B. have been sold at private term, "to arrive;" presented home quotations are £11.18.0, with an upward tendency. Iron.—A fair business is on record:—400 tons "Goffin" Nailrods at 102/6, c.i.f.; 100 "Sohier Exp." Nailrods at 101/0 c.i.f.; 1,500 cases Bamboo Steel, "Double Horse" at £10.7.6 c.i.f.; 100 tons Coke at 40/0 c.i.f.; 50 tons Gartsheire, No. 1 Pig Iron, private terms; 100 tons Redcar, No. 4 at 53/0 c.i.f.; 50 tons Bar Iron at 103/0 c.i.f.; 50 tons Bar Iron W. Crown at 112/0 c.i.f.; and some 60/100 tons "Alliance" Nailrod "spot" cargo have been quitted at Tls. 2.20, ex godown. Scrap Material.—The market is quiet, and demand small; sales are reported as follows.—150 tons Steel Plate Cuttings 72/6; 100 tons Horse-shoes 73/6; 50 tons Old Boiler Plates, and 50 tons Angle Iron.

TUESDAY, 20th August.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer 2/17
Bank Bills, on demand 2/17

Bank Bills, at 30 day's sight	—	Closing quotations are as follow.—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/24	COMPANY. PAID UP. QUOTATIONS
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/24	Banks—
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/24	Hongkong & S'hai. \$125 180 p. ct. pm., sales
ON PARIS.—		China & Japan, prf. ... nominal
Bank Bills, on demand	2.71 <i>1/2</i>	Do. ordinary £1 nominal
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.77 <i>1/2</i>	Do. deferred £1 nominal
ON GERMANY.—		Natl. Bank of China
On Demand	2.19	B. Shares £8 \$25 <i>1/2</i>
ON NEW YORK.—		Foun. Shares £1 \$26 <i>1/2</i> , sales
Banks Bills, on demand	52 <i>1/2</i>	Bell's Asbestos E. A. 15s. \$10, sellers
Credits, 60 day's sight	54	Brown & Co., H. G. \$50 \$13, sellers
ON BOMBAY.—		Campbell, Moore & Co. \$10 \$2
Telegraphic Transfer	196	China Sugar \$100 \$103, sales
Bank, on demand	196 <i>1/2</i>	Chinese Loan '86 E. Tls. 250 10 p. ct. pm
ON CALCUTTA.—		Dakin, Cruicks'k & Co. \$5 \$1
Telegraphic Transfer	196	Dairy Farm Co. \$10 \$8, sales & buyers
Bank, on demand	196 <i>1/2</i>	Fenwick & Co., Geo. \$25 \$17, sales & buyers
ON SHANGHAI.—		Green Island Cement \$50 \$10, sales & buyers
Banks, at sight	72 <i>1/2</i>	H. Brick & Cement \$12.50 \$7, sellers
Private, 30 day's sight	72 <i>1/2</i>	H. & C. Bakery \$50 \$36
ON YOKOHAMA.—		Hongkong & C. Gas. £10 \$110
On demand	par.	Hongkong Electric \$8 \$5 <i>1/2</i> , sales
ON MANILA.—		H. H. L. Tramways. \$100 \$70, buyers
On demand	4 <i>1/2</i> % pm.	Hongkong Hotel \$50 .6
ON SINGAPORE.—		Hongkong Ice \$25 \$85, buyers
On demand	par.	H. & K. Wharf & G. \$50 \$41, sales
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate..... \$9.10		Hongkong Rope \$50 \$140, buyers
GOLD LEAF. 100 fine, per tael	47.50	H. & W. Dock \$125 104 p. ct. pm. ex div..

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 20th August.—The firmness and upward tendency reported in our last has resulted in a further rise in rates, and in many cases, notably in Banks and Docks, we have a substantial improvement to report. Market closes firm with a still upward tendency for gilt edge stocks, and for others steady.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais.—After further sales at 175 per cent. prem. the rate quickly rose to 180 per cent. prem. with sales at that and intermediate rates and market closes firm at the higher rate. Shares have been enquired for on time, but few if any have changed hands. Nationals are firmer at \$26*1/2* and a sale of Founders is reported at \$105. Bank of China neglected.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Have ruled steady, but we have no increase in rates to report. Small sales have occurred at quotations, and all close steady with the exception of China Traders, which show a decided upward tendency.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have improved to \$235, and Chinas to \$85, with sales both closing steady.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macaos have improved their position after sales at \$32*1/2* and \$32*1/2* to \$33. Douglas's have found buyers at \$53 and \$54, and close firm at latter rate. Indo-Chinas have again been enquired for at \$47*1/2*, but holders refuse to part at that rate. China Manilas remain unchanged with no business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been negotiated at \$103 in small lots, but more shares are wanted at the rate and do not appear to be forthcoming. Luzons continue at \$45 without business.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled quite neglected and we have no business to report. Balmorals have been out of favour and after small sales at \$5.70 cash and for the end of the month are on offer at \$5.60 without finding buyers. Charbannages have receded with a small sale to \$115. Other mining stock has ruled neglected.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Docks have continued in strong favour, the anticipation of some big jobs coming having brought them into greater favour. Sales have been effected in fair lots at 106, 107, 109, 110, and 111 per cent. prem. cum dividend, market closing firm with buyers at the latter rate, or at 104 ex div.; a further rise in this stock may be fairly expected. Lands have ruled quiet and beyond a few small lots at \$61, we have nothing to report. Kowloon Wharfs have improved their position with sales to \$41, at which rate market closes steady. Watsons have changed hands at \$9.80 and \$10, closing at latter rate. Fenwicks have advanced to \$17, and look like improving further. Electrics have also improved their position with sales at \$5.65 and \$5.75. Green Islands, after further small sales at \$10, close in demand at that rate. Ices have been enquired for at \$85, but no shares are forthcoming. Dairy Farms have advanced to \$8, and close in demand at that rate.

Bank Bills, at 30 day's sight	—	Closing quotations are as follow.—
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ON SHANGHAI.—		Green Island Cement \$50 \$10, sales & buyers
Banks, at sight	72 <i>1/2</i>	H. Brick & Cement \$12.50 \$7, sellers
Private, 30 day's sight	72 <i>1/2</i>	H. & C. Bakery \$50 \$36
ON YOKOHAMA.—		Hongkong & C. Gas. £10 \$110
On demand	par.	Hongkong Electric \$8 \$5 <i>1/2</i> , sales
ON MANILA.—		H. H. L. Tramways. \$100 \$70, buyers
On demand	4 <i>1/2</i> % pm.	Hongkong Hotel \$50 .6
ON SINGAPORE.—		Hongkong Ice \$25 \$85, buyers
On demand	par.	H. & K. Wharf & G. \$50 \$41, sales
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate..... \$9.10		Hongkong Rope \$50 \$140, buyers
GOLD LEAF. 100 fine, per tael	47.50	H. & W. Dock \$125 104 p. ct. pm. ex div..

Insurances—

Canton \$50 \$180

China Fire \$20 \$85, sales

China Traders' ... \$25 \$72, sales & buyers

Hongkong Fire \$50 \$235, sales

North-China \$25 Tls. 200, sellers

Straits \$20 \$21*1/2*, sales

Union \$25 \$180

Yangtsze \$30 \$99, sales

Land & Building—

H. Land Investm't \$50 \$61, sales & sellers

Humphreys Estate \$10 .8

Kowloon Land & B. \$30 \$11, sales

West Point Buildg. \$40 \$184, sellers

Luzon Sugar \$100 \$45

Mining—

Charbannages Fcs. 500 \$115, sales

Jelebu \$5 \$3.50, sales

New Balmoral \$3 \$5.60, sellers

Punjom \$3*1/2* \$4.40

Do. (Preference) \$1 \$1.30, buyers

Raub 13s. 10d. \$4.30, sellers

Steamship Cos.—

China & Manila \$50 \$62*1/2*

China Shippers £5 £2.11.6

Douglas S. S. Co. \$50 \$54, sales

H. Canton, & M. \$20 \$88, sales & sellers

Indo-China S. N. £10 \$47*1/2*, sales

W'chai Wareh'se Co. \$37*1/2* \$37*1/2*, buyers

Watson & Co., A. S. \$10 10, sales

CHATER & VERNON Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 16th August:—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares were placed on the 13th for delivery on the 31st current at 185 per cent premium, cum dividend. Shares have since changed hands for cash at 175 per cent premium, at which they close firm, with buyers. Our latest Hongkong quotation is 175. The London rate is £44. National Bank of China shares have been placed, from Hongkong, at \$26*1/2*. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares have been placed, and are offering, at Tls. 35. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat shares have been sold to Hongkong at \$32.30 and exchange 71*1/2*, and are wanted. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have been placed at Tls. 160. Marine Insurance.—A fair business has been done in—North-Chinas at Tls. 200 and Tls. 205, Unions at \$185, Yangtsze at \$95 and \$97, and Straits at \$21. Fire Insurance.—A few Hongkongs were placed at \$227*1/2*. Chinas are in strong demand at \$83. Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were sold, and are wanted, at Tls. 292 ex dividend

[August 21, 1895.]

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited.—Nominal.	37s. 6d. net. 45s. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York, by sail 21s.; New York, by Pacific Lines, tea, 14 cent gold. Coast rates are:—Chinkiang to Canton, 13 candareens. Moji to Shanghai, \$1.25 per ton coal. Nagasaki to Shanghai, \$1.10 per ton coal, nominal. No disengaged vessel in port.
National Bank of China, Ltd., A.—\$261.	18. Rainbow, British cr., for Foochow.
National Bank of China, Ltd., B.—\$261.	18. Razboynik, Russian cr., for Singapore.
National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—\$261.	19. Taisang, British str., for Canton.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 140 per sh.	19. Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 35 per sh.	19. Glenruin, British str., for London.
China-Matua Steam Nav. Co.—Tls. 35 per sh.	19. Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—T. Tls. 70 per sh.	19. Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$31 $\frac{1}{2}$ per share.	19. Preussen, German str., for Europe.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$53 per share.	19. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
Royd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 300 per share.	20. Taurus, Norw. str., for Saigon.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 155 per share.	20. Frejir, Danish str., for Hoihow.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 160 per share.	20. Bonnington, British str., for Canton.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—104 per cent. premium.	20. Cassius, Chinese str., for Saigon.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$70 per sh.	20. Chiynen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 205 per share.	20. Cromarty, British str., for Singapore.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$185 per share.	20. Fuping, Chinese str., for Chefoo.
Yangtsze Inscc. Assoco., Ltd.—\$97 per share.	20. Glenearn, British str., for Shanghai.
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$160 per share.	20. Namo, British str., for Coast Ports.
Straits Insurance Co., Limited.—\$21 per share.	20. Natal, French str., for Shanghai.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$22 $\frac{1}{4}$ per sh.	20. Propontis, British str., for Singapore.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$83 per share.	20. Spondilus, British str., for London.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 292 per share.	20. Wingsang, British str., for Calcutta.
Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 50 per share.	
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$40 per share.	
Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 4 per share.	
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$4 per share.	
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares—\$1.40 per share.	
Jelebu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$3.50 per sh.	
Baub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$4 per share.	
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 155 per share.	
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 133 per sh.	
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 211 per share.	
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$5 per share.	
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 177 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. sh.	
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 31 p. sh.	
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$102 $\frac{1}{2}$ per sh.	
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$45 per share.	
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$20 per share.	
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.—Tls. 38 per share.	
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$58 per share.	
J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$30 per share.	
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 49 per sh.	
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 25 per share.	
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 125 per sh.	
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 245 per share.	
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Funder's Nominal.	
Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 117 $\frac{1}{2}$ per share.	
A. S. Watson & Co., Limited.—\$94 per share.	
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—£1.	
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$9.50.	
Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd. Tls. 23.00.	
China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company Debentures.—Nominal.	
Lyceum Theatre Debentures.—Tls. 12.	
Chinese Imp. Gov. Loan, 1886, E.—Tls. 275 (a).	
Shanghai Municipal Debentures.—Nominal.	
Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 100 (a).	
Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 93.	

(a) Exclusive of accrued interest.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 16th August.—(From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—Our freight market homewards has not undergone any change since last writing and it appears to have assumed quite a settled appearance, shippers apparently being content with rates all-round with the exception of that on tea to London, but judging from the export figures for this season the rate has not in any way checked business in this direction. For New York direct via Suez the last departing steamer took a very large quantity of cargo from this, principally tea, and the vessel now loading has very fair prospects, while by trans-Pacific routes each departure obtains all that she can spare room for. Rates of freight are:—From Shanghai to London, by Conference Lines, general cargo, 40s. Waste silk 45s. Tea 55s.; Northern Continental ports, general cargo, 42s. 6d. Waste silk, 45s. Tea 55s.; New York, general cargo, 50s. Tea 45s.; New York via London, general cargo, 50s. Tea 55s.; Boston, general cargo, 52s. 6d.; Philadelphia, general cargo, 60s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. From Shanghai to London, by Shell Line, general cargo, 40s. less 10 per cent.; Hamburg, general cargo, 35s. net; New York, general cargo, 50s. less 10 per cent.; Havre, direct, general cargo, 37s. 6d. net; Genoa, tallow, 35s., general cargo, 40s. net; Marseilles, tallow, 35s., general cargo,

37s. 6d. net. 45s. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York, by sail 21s.; New York, by Pacific Lines, tea, 14 cent gold. Coast rates are:—Chinkiang to Canton, 13 candareens. Moji to Shanghai, \$1.25 per ton coal. Nagasaki to Shanghai, \$1.10 per ton coal, nominal. No disengaged vessel in port.	18. Rainbow, British cr., for Foochow.
VESSELS ON THE BERTH.	18. Razboynik, Russian cr., for Singapore.
For LONDON.—Rohilla (str.), Glenavon (str.), Pyrrhus (str.), Benalder (str.), Bengal (str.).	19. Taisang, British str., for Canton.
For HAVRE and LONDON.—Glenruin (str.).	19. Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
For BREMEN.—Oldenburg (str.).	19. Glenruin, British str., for London.
For HAVRE and HAMBURG.—Strathfillan (str.), Oceana (str.).	19. Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.
For VANCOUVER.—Empress of India (str.).	19. Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
For PORTLAND.—Mount Lebanon.	19. Preussen, German str., for Europe.
For VICTORIA.—Strathnevis (str.).	19. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
For SAN FRANCISCO.—Lyndhurst, City of Peking (str.), Gaelic (str.).	20. Taurus, Norw. str., for Saigon.
For NEW YORK.—George F. Manson, Belmont, Fort Stuart, Annandale (str.), George S. Homer, P. N. Blanchard, Nestor, Adam W. Spies, Sam Skofield.	20. Frejir, Danish str., for Hoihow.
For BALTIMORE.—Fred. P. Litchfield.	20. Bonnington, British str., for Canton.
For AUSTRALIA.—Whampoa (str.).	20. Cassius, Chinese str., for Saigon.
	20. Chiynen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
	20. Cromarty, British str., for Singapore.
	20. Fuping, Chinese str., for Chefoo.
	20. Glenearn, British str., for Shanghai.
	20. Namo, British str., for Coast Ports.
	20. Natal, French str., for Shanghai.
	20. Propontis, British str., for Singapore.
	20. Spondilus, British str., for London.
	20. Wingsang, British str., for Calcutta.
	PASSENGER LIST.
	ARRIVED.
Per Radnorshire, str., from Karatsu.—Mr. P. G. Williams.	
Per Yuensang, str., from Manila.—Messrs. T. Taylor and J. Rogers.	
Per Memnon, str., from Sandakan.—Dr. Banermann and Mr. Stotz.	
Per Tsinan, str., from Sydney, &c.—Mrs. Patterson and son, Messrs. Mylins, Syme, Wenchell, Turner, and Denning.	
Per Gaelic, str., from San Francisco.—Mrs. J. Y. V. Vernon and child, Mrs. M. Wood, Mrs. G. M. Hall, Rev. and Mrs. W. G. McClure and 4 children, Miss M. Stanley, Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Messrs. A. J. Pattison, John Hannon, and H. W. Bird.	
Per Namo, str., from Coast Ports.—Messrs. Jaseland, Playfair, Luhress, and Daughler.	
Per Hohenzollern, steamer, from Nagasaki.—Messrs. J. Snowden, Moffatt, G. E. Campbell, Horn, Belineke, Hotter, Horlihan, and Halrozen, Mrs. Shepherd and 3 children.	
Per Glenruin, str., from Swatow.—Mr. Mitcalfe.	
Per Preussen, str., from Foochow.—Dr. Franz Kronecker, Mr. W. von Corbach.	
Per Lyeemoon, str., from Shanghai.—Mrs. Charters and child, Messrs. D. W. Le Lacheur and N. Horwitz.	
Per Arratoon Apear, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Mr. A. E. Morgan, and 370 Chinese.	
	DEPARTED.
Per Empress of China, str., for Shanghai.—Messrs. K. Raeburn, C. Mattel, and A. P. MacEwen, Mrs. Eiswaldt and 4 children. For Nagasaki.—Mrs. Wylie and 3 children, and Mr. J. L. Birley. For Kobe.—Mr. and Mrs. Grist, and Mr. W. H. Gaskell. For Yokohama.—Mrs. L. Dower, Messrs. J. R. Michael and P. Lee, Miss H. Stone. For Vancouver, B.C.—Mr. W. E. Wormald. For Boston.—Mrs.ung Shee, Mrs. Flowng Yui Nam and infant, Mrs.ung Lay Shee, Mr. and Mrs. May Quon Hen. For Atlanta, Ga.—Messrs. Kee Ow Yang, Leong Yong, and Leong Lam. For London.—Mr. A. McIntyre, Capt. Miller, R.N. From Shanghai for London.—Mr. H. Crane.	
Per Hongkong, str., for Hoihow.—Mr. Schomburg.	
Per Kaisar-i-Hind, str., from Hongkong for London.—Midshipmen W. B. Compton, R.N., F. B. Noble, R.N., H. J. G. Lawrence, R.N., A. D. P. R. Pound, R.N., and H. L. Edwards, R.N. From Shanghai for Penang.—Mr. Sia Ka Yuen. For Port Said.—Mr. F. Fontaine Vewey. For London.—Mr. and Mrs. Lawson, Mr. Pearson. From Yokohama for Penang.—Mr. Inch. For Colombo.—Mr. G. C. Trask. For Ismailia.—Rev. R. S. MacArthur. For Adelaide.—Mr. Mrs., and Miss Farley. For Marseilles.—Mr. J. Allardye. For London.—Messrs. W. Kaneda and M. Yoshida. From Kobe for London.—Mr. Johnson.	
Per Verona, str., from Hongkong for Nagasaki.—Mr. and Mrs. G. Caldwell, Mr. Heinrich Voller, Mrs. Koshiba. For Yokohama.—Miss Holmes. For Kobe from Bombay.—Mr. R. A. Sethna. From Penang.—Mr. Abdul Latoot. For Yokohama from London.—Mr. Thos. B. Dick.	
Per City of Rio, str., for Nagasaki.—Messrs. E. E. Winchell and Chien Chick Min, and Capt. Simmond, R.N. For Yokohama.—Messrs. W. Dening, David Syme, A. H. Mahomed, Chew Chee and Chue Sue. For San Francisco.—Mr. J. Dubois	